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KagES team is Academic Bee Challenge champion

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The five-member team of Kagman Elementary School dominated the 2013 Academic Bee Challenge for the elementary division after besting 13 other school teams from private and public schools in the Commonwealth.

Coached by teacher Peter Ray Arriola, the KagES team, made up of Joy Sizemore, Ozzy Cruz, Esther Huh, and brothers Michael and Michail Villagomez, was adjudged as the competition's overall winners, earning them the slot to defend the title next year.

This was the first time the school team brought home the championship trophy after many years of participating in the Academic Challenge Bee.

"We've been consistently joining the Academic Bee Challenge for many years…but we never came this far to reach the first place so it feels so good. Being a turnaround school, this is a major accomplishment for our students

See CHAMPION on Page 4

Members of the Kagman Elementary School team pose with their coach after Saturday's 18th Annual Academic Bee Challenge Bowl at Multi-Purpose Center. The team, composed of Joy Sizemore, Ozzy Cruz, Esther Huh, and Michael and Michail Villagomez, bested 13 other teams from private and public schools in the Commonwealth. The team is coached by teacher Peter Ray Arriola. MONETH G. DEPOSA

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

DO you support a U.S. military plan to lease Pagan?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

NATION

A limousine erupts in flames, killing five passengers. ➤ PAGE 15

ASIA

More than 600 bodies are recovered from a building that collapsed. ➤ PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE

Kobe Bryant tries to keep his mom from auctioning his mementoes. ➤ PAGE 20

MAHMOOD, SAIPAN FIRM MEET WITH SENATE

New deal sought on $200M green energy

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Another presentation at Legislature today

Saipan Development LLC adviser Kenneth Mahmood and Green Global Solutions Saipan LLC presented yesterday afternoon a proposed development of some $200 million worth of wind and solar projects on Tinian and Saipan, drawing a mix of interest, concerns, and questions from senators.

This comes months after SDLLC signed with CNMI officials a $190.8-million diesel power deal that later became one of the bases for two impeachment resolutions against former governor Benigno R. Fitial. Fitial resigned days before his impeachment trial at the Senate.

Senators said yesterday that the new proposal includes 30-megawatt wind turbines on Tinian with plans of delivering to Saipan the alternative power produced through underwater cable, as well as a 10-MW solar energy plant on Saipan.

Another presentation will be held at 2pm at the Legislature this afternoon but this time around, senators also invited House of Representatives members.

See ENERGY on Page 4

IN PURSUING 902 TALKS

Inos: Military plan for Pagan a surprise

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos reiterated yesterday he is pursuing Covenant 902 talks with the United States to, among other things, get full information about the U.S. military's plan for Pagan after the federal government failed to formally inform the CNMI government about any such plan prior to announcements of scoping meetings related to the development of live-fire training areas on Tinian and Pagan.

Inos

Inos said he will be sending his letter to President Barack Obama this week.

Section 902 of the CNMI's Covenant with the U.S. allows for periodic consultations between the Commonwealth and federal governments "on all matters affecting the relationship between them."

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Local

'2013 Liberation festivities will be another blast'

» Hawaii popular artists eyed for performance

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Saipan Mayor Donald Flores has high hopes for this year's Liberation Day festivities, although funding at this time remains a big question.

"Our goal is always to improve from the last one…because this major event is really the people's party. Yes, we're still working on the budget as we speak…but we promise we will give our people another blast [this year]," Flores told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Flores, the annual Liberation Day celebration has failed to get funding support from the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation in the last four years. He attributes the continued success of the event to the strong support of community members and groups.

Flores disclosed that the cost to stage the monthlong celebration is approximately $40,000 each year.

According to Jonas Barcinas, last year's festival committee chairperson and now member of the Liberation Day panel, the Saipan Mayor's Office will explore ways to find the money for the event's initial preparation.

What's final at this time, Barcinas said, are details of the traditional float competition, the search for 2013 Liberation Queen, the much-awaited festival parade, and the selection of the grand marshal, among others.

Through the initiative of the festival's major sponsor, the KKMP Foundation, Barcinas disclosed that the organization is thinking of bringing to this year's festival popular artists and musicians from Hawaii.

"Although it's still in the works, we're hoping it will be realized," Barcinas said.

Flores would also like to have a fireworks display in this year's celebration but, with the budget constraints, he's counting on the committee's plan to seek the help of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Like last year, the 2013 Liberation Day festivities will be celebrated as an alcohol- and smoke-free event to encourage the public to become more health-conscious.

The Saipan and Northern Islands Delegation stopped funding the "lavish" Liberation Day festivities starting in 2010 following disclosure of unexplained and unaccounted expenditures by previous liberation committees.

NATIONAL PREVENTION WEEK HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

In this May 2, 2013, photo, Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider proclaim May 5 to 11 as National Prevention Week, highlighting the need to prevent and overcome mental and/or substance use disorders in the community. The proclamation signing was held at the conference room of the Office of the Governor.

Senate rejects House-amended civil service bill

» Senators confirm 3 governor's nominees

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

By a vote of 8-0, the Senate rejected Friday the House's amendment to a civil service bill addressing Public Law 17-80's unintended consequence on the government employment of some 66 individuals, mostly deemed with "special and unique" skills and expertise.

Senate floor leader Ray Yumul (IR-Saipan), author of Senate Bill 18-18, said that senators "moved to reject the bill so we can go into conference committee with the House and look into this matter more carefully."

"The amendment of the House would make it difficult for codification, and it needs fixing," Yumul told *Saipan Tribune*.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) appointed the conferees—Yumul as chairman, and Sens. Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan) and Frank Cruz (R-Tinian).

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) has yet to appoint their counterparts.

The House floor amendment, offered by Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan), wanted the personnel director to not only concur but also "certify" the position that appointing authorities deem to be "special and unique and is essential to the public interest."

Gov. Eloy S. Inos separately said he is waiting for this bill to reach his desk.

The 66 individuals' employment status was placed in limbo when PL 17-80 was enacted last year. Some employment contracts could not be renewed while others have difficulty getting compensated as a result of the law. PL 17-80 moved the Office of Personnel Management back to the Civil Service Commission.

The Senate, during its session on Tinian Friday afternoon, also confirmed three of the governor's appointees.

Senators confirmed the nominations of Frances C. Mafnas and Thomas "Kiyu" P. Villagomez to serve on the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors, both representing Saipan.

The Senate also confirmed the governor's appointment of Ted Parker to serve on the Health Care Professional Licensing Board representing health care professionals.

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Court asked to suppress Ayuyu statements

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu's lawyer has asked the federal court to suppress all statements the senator gave during interrogation by Department of Corrections' officers while in detention.

David J. Lujan said that Ayuyu's statements must be suppressed as violations of his constitutional rights.

Lujan said he expects the U.S. government to use Ayuyu's statements when in fact they were obtained as a result of the interrogation.

The statements also resulted in the senator being charged with possession of a cell phone while being detained, he added.

Lujan attached as exhibits the reports about the cell phone incident prepared by Corrections officer Marvin B. Seman, shift commander Sgt. Jose T. Castro, and Corrections captain Georgia M. Cabrera.

The reports state, among other things, that a Corrections officer spotted Ayuyu holding a cell phone last January, that the officer confiscated the phone, and that the senator said he got it from federal inmate Daniel Quitugua.

Lujan said his client was a pre-trial detainee as a result of other charges pending before the court at the time of the interrogation.

He said Ayuyu was questioned about his alleged possession of a prison contraband—the cell phone.

"Defendant was interrogated without any warnings that any evidence he gave could be used against him, that he had a right to remain silent, and a right to counsel, or that one would be appointed for him if he was unable to afford counsel," Lujan said.

Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) is facing two other criminal cases over an alleged conspiracy to smuggle eight dead Mariana fruit bats from Rota to Saipan in October 2010.

Ayuyu, 48, has been in detention since Dec. 17, 2012. His trials have been moved several times.

Fund ordered to pay trustee *ad litem* $84K

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood has ordered NMI Retirement Fund acting administrator Lillian Pangelinan to pay the trustee *ad litem* and its attorneys $84,587.42 in compensation and reimbursement for January and February 2013.

Fund trustee *ad litem* Civille and Tang law firm wants to be paid $22,257.50 for professional services and $421.61 in reimbursement, for a total of $22,679.11 for February.

The judge granted the trustee *ad litem*'s request for compensation for Fund attorneys Daniel J. Berman and Braddock J. Huesman—$38,700.31 and $23,208 respectively, for the months of January and February.

Tydingco-Gatewood said she has reviewed the invoices and finds the requests for compensation and reimbursements of expenses to be reasonable.

The judge said trustee *ad litem* and its team prepared and presented their report to the court and parties during this time frame.

The trustee *ad litem* and its attorneys also continued to meet with financial experts and government officials, and defended and advanced matters in various suits involving the Fund, she said.

The judge previously ruled that the source of compensation for the trustee *ad litem* and the professionals it will hire is the CNMI government. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

INOS TO JAPAN FOREIGN MINISTER:

Graffiti removed from Japanese memorials

Gov. Eloy S. Inos wrote Japan Foreign Affairs Minister Fumio Kishida yesterday to inform him that the CNMI government has made sure "disrespectful graffiti" in Chinese characters that appeared on Japanese memorials have been removed.

"I write to inform you that this matter is taken very seriously by my office and the CNMI government as a whole," Inos said in his one-page letter.

The governor said that since the Japanese *Sankei* newspaper published an article regarding the discovery of graffiti on Japanese memorials in the CNMI, the Marianas Visitors Authority "immediately inspected the memorials to remove any graffiti that was still there."

"I am pleased to report that the disrespectful graffiti, which appeared in Chinese characters, has since been removed from the memorials," Inos told Kishida.

Japan remains the CNMI's major tourism market.

"In recognition of the immense contributions of Japan, I wish to extend our spirit of camaraderie and hospitality. If there are any further concerns from the government of Japan, please do not hesitate to contact my office for assistance. We have been honored by your contributions to our islands. Rest assured that the CNMI will stand ready to assist," the governor added.

A large number of Japanese tourists visit memorials to offer prayers for those who perished during World War II and to pray for lasting peace around the globe. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

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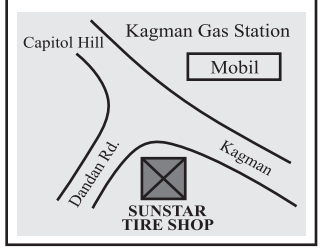

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CHAMPION

From Page 1

and our school," Arriola told *Saipan Tribune.*

He shared the win with "equally hardworking colleagues" at KagES whom he credited for helping team members prepare for the contest.

Arriola attributed the school's latest success to its "great students and great teachers."

For sixth-grader Sizemore, the championship award was a big surprise that perfectly caps her three-year experience of joining the competition.

Sizemore has been participating in the Academic Bee since fourth grade.

Sixth-grader Huh admitted to being nervous at the beginning of the competition. She described her first-time experience in the Academic Challenge Bee as a learning and worthwhile experience.

Fourth grader Michail Villagomez was also happy with his team's unexpected win. He and his brother Michael just participated in a sports event a day before the competition.

"I feel so happy that our school won something this time. I really enjoyed the competition and hope to be here again next year," Michail Villagomez told *Saipan Tribune.*

The KagES team garnered a total of 345 points to win the competition.

Coming in as the competition's second best team was Grace Christian Academy, which was just a point away from the champion team with 344 points.

The GCA team was composed of Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga, Tae Yong Kim, Marcelo Masilungan Jr., Melody Woo, and Hyun In Noh.

Last year's champion, Green Meadows School, won third place. Its members were Pionnah Gregorio, Joseph Yanto, Eu Ming Cacdac, Ashley Reganit, and Lester Satur.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

The second place award is bestowed on a Grace Christian Academy team composed of Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga, Tae Yong Kim, Marcelo Masilungan Jr., Melody Woo, and Hyun In Noh.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Last year's champion, Green Meadows School, is third placer with members Pionnah Gregorio, Joseph Yanto, Eu Ming Cacdac, Ashley Reganit, and Lester Satur.

The fourth and fifth place awards went to William S. Reyes Elementary School and Tinian Elementary School, respectively.

The awarding ceremonies were held Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Marianas High School's National Honor Society organizes the annual Academic Bee Challenge for elementary schools. It tests the students' knowledge in English, mathematics, fine arts, current events, sports, history and geography, and sciences.

According to Lorraine Catienza, adviser for the MHS Honor Society, this year's number of participants was a significant increase from previous contests. She lauded the participation of both Tinian Elementary School and Rota's Sinapalo Elementary School.

She described the event as a "close competition," citing the 1-point difference between the champion team and GCA.

A total of 70 team members joined the competition from 14 schools.

The honor society has been organizing the event for the past 18 years now.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

A very special happy birthday to a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather, Harry Moses! May your special day be filled with lots of love and God's blessing. We love you always. From Ann, Ruby, Johnny, Nadia, Juana, Harry Boy, and your grandson Kiku boy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ENERGY

From Page 1

"The total cost of the project is about $200 million," Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) told *Saipan Tribune*. Cruz said he helped arrange the presentation.

Other senators interviewed by *Saipan Tribune* late yesterday afternoon, including Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), Senate Vice President Victor Hocog (R-Rota), Senate floor leader Ray Yumul (IR-Saipan), and Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee chair Sen. Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan), confirmed major details about Green Global Solutions' proposal.

Reyes said the Senate "did not commit" to anything.

Hocog, for his part, said the presenters stated that "there's zero obligation from the CNMI government."

"But they ask that there's something in black-and-white indicating the CNMI government's support for this project," Hocog said, referring to a PPA.

Cruz, Torres, and other senators said that, from what they understand, Mahmood will be the one handling the financing for the proposed project.

"They want a 25- to 30-year arrangement with the government," Torres said.

Reyes, along with other senators, was concerned most about the proposed 27 cents per kilowatt-hour rate which—when operation, administrative, and other costs are added—could easily end up being equal to the over 30 cents per kwh that consumers currently pay the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

"I personally think 27 cents is too high. It won't reach end users at 27 cents because there are added costs. I am not convinced. At the end of the day, the only proposal I am going to support is one that can reduce the rate to end-users, but not if it's only 1 or 2 cents difference from what we are paying now," Reyes said.

Mahmood and Green Global Solutions' presentation to the Senate comes nine months after SDLLC signed a $190.8-million power purchase agreement with then governor Fitial and then attorney general Edward Buckingham for a diesel power plant on Saipan. A taxpayer lawsuit against the PPA's signing was filed and is still being pursued.

Fitial, whose whereabouts remain unknown since he resigned on Feb. 20 prior to an impeachment trial at the Senate, is a subject of a penal summons. The CNMI government, meanwhile, is seeking Buckingham's extradition.

Mahmood returned to Saipan in December, continuing to promote and pursue SDLLC's diesel power plant project.

Reyes said in his personal view, "it seems" Mahmood's main concern is to have the CUC power plant removed from its current location in Lower Base "to give way to a shipyard project."

"The shipyard project, if it materializes, will bring in a lot of opportunities for the people of the CNMI," he added.

Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), the main mover of the taxpayers' lawsuit against the SDLLC PPA, said yesterday she's "surprised" to learn about a presentation by Mahmood and other investors.

"We are still pursuing the SDLLC lawsuit. But because this is a different project, an alternative power project, I would like to be at the presentation and hear from them directly," Maratita said.

House PUTC chair Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) said he hopes House members will attend today's presentation.

Just last month, Deleon Guerrero and four other House members introduced a joint resolution urging Gov. Eloy S. Inos to "concur and support" Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas' opinion that former governor Benigno R. Fitial "had no authority" to enter into a $190.8-million power purchase agreement with SDLLC.

PAGAN

From Page 1

Besides the U.S. military's plan, the proposed 902 consultations will also touch on the federalization of CNMI immigration.

Inos said the CNMI does not want to take the route of suing the federal government again on immigration-related issues, and will only be pursuing 902 talks.

The governor likened the situation about the planned Pagan use to a landowner. "I own the land and no one has talked to me about wanting my land."

He said the CNMI was only a "participant" at the public scoping meetings held recently.

"I don't know how to put it more bluntly but you know, no one has talked to me. Maybe they talked to my predecessor, [but] no one has talked to me. No one has told me, at least directly from the federal government, that they want [Pagan] and they want to sit down and talk about leasing it or about having it. We only know about it through all these public scoping meetings. No one has ever come to my office and say 'we want you to know we plan on utilizing Pagan.' Everything has been implied," Inos told reporters after a Cabinet meeting yesterday on Capital Hill.

The previous administration offered to lease Pagan to foreign investors.

In this case, Inos said, the U.S. military has not formally approached the CNMI government.

When asked whether the CNMI would be willing to lease Pagan to the U.S. military, he said, "I don't know yet. We need a 902. We want to know what they want to do, the extent of what they want to do. Because if it's not going to be an extensive operation, it might be acceptable."

Inos has yet to decide whom to appoint as his official representative to the 902 talks if Obama agrees to the discussions.

He said he himself could engage in the 902 talks.

The governor said the minimum wage and submerged lands are statutory issues and are not necessarily a topic of discussion in the proposed 902 talks.

The 37-year-old Covenant establishes the unique relationship between the Northern Marianas and the United States.

Either party can initiate Covenant Section 902 consultations. The representatives to these discussions are appointed directly by the CNMI governor and the U.S. president.

Reauthorization of NMC apprenticeship program pushed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A bill that aims to expand the period for the implementation of an apprenticeship program at the Northern Marianas College has received the full backing of NMC and its Board of Regents.

This comes even as the college admits that the apprenticeship program has remained in limbo ever since the passage of the law that created it several years ago.

Regent William Torres blames NMC's failure to enforce the apprenticeship program on the absence of funding.

Torres said the program's failure to get off the ground cannot be blamed on the college but on the Legislature. The funds were supposed to come from the Legislature but it has suspended allocating funds for the program every year.

The NMC Apprenticeship Program was established by Public Law 15-5 in 2006. This law provides a five-year window for the creation of the program and requires legislative action for reauthorization. The five-year window presumably expired in April 2011.

House Bill 18-58, authored by Rep. Trenton B. Conner (IR-Tinian), now aims to reauthorize the law.

In a presentation to the Board of Regents, external relations director Frankie Eliptico disclosed that there's a promised increased funding from the Legislature that would help establish the program at the college.

He pointed out that under the fiscal year 2013 budget, the Legislature appropriated $500,000 for the NMC Apprenticeship Program, sourced from government's collections on contract worker fees. The amount may increase in fiscal year 2014, as proposed by the Executive Branch.

The NMC management will present at the board's next meeting a report on how it spent the $500,000 CW fees allocated for the apprenticeship program.

NMC recommended to the Board of Regents that the institution formally support the passage of H.B. 18-58.

"The college is aggressively moving forward with the launch of the apprenticeship program, which is an earn-while-you-learn program that focuses on on-the-job training provided by employers, combined with related classroom instruction provided by NMC," states the college's position.

NMC's dean of administration, who will run the program, recently met with officials of the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship and indicated that the college is nearing the final steps in bringing the program into full swing.

Man arrested anew for alleged disturbance at GIG

Jerome Tudela Aldan was arrested again over the weekend, this time for allegedly creating a disturbance while drunk at the GIG Discotheque in western Garapan.

Aldan, 36, was arrested for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

At yesterday's bail hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho raised Aldan's initial bail of $5,000 to $10,000. Assistant attorney general Margo Brown recommended raising the bail amount due to the defendant's pending criminal case.

When asked if he has a lawyer, Aldan stated that he has retained former judge Edward Manibusan, who is also his counsel in the first case.

Police detective Rudolph Sablan stated in his report that Aldan allegedly tried to pick a fight with another man on Saturday night inside GIG by flipping him off and shoving him on the shoulder. Aldan also allegedly told the victim that he wants to fight him.

GIG bouncers came and took the two outside. The bouncers then called the police.

Prior to the incident, Aldan backed up his white Nissan Frontier into the front entrance of GIG, blocking the entrance and exit of the establishment's main entrance. A guard had to tell him to move the truck. The guard also detected a strong odor of alcohol coming from Aldan's breath.

Aldan tried to hide when the police came but when he went back to his truck after an hour, two police officers who waited for him approached him. Aldan attempted to escape aboard his truck but the officers stopped and arrested him.

Aldan's first case also happened in western Garapan on Jan. 31, 2013, when he allegedly threw two chairs and a bench at two women, hitting one of them inside Poseidon Bar.

Aldan also allegedly attempted to hit a woman for not giving in to his request for a ride outside Dynamic Massage near Poseidon. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

AGRI FAIR THEME CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Marianas High School Polksai Chamorro Club and Saipan Agricultural Fair chair RB Camacho are joined by club advisers Anita A. Sablan and Alvin Sablan. The winning theme for the 30th Agricultural Fair is *"Ta silebra i lina'la ginen i gualo-ta"* and was provided by the MHS Chamorro Club.

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CHCC assures: CNMI still has zero A(H7N9) cases

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. emergency preparedness director Warren Villagomez assures that the CNMI still has zero suspected cases of a bird flu strain originating from China.

As of May 3, the World Health Organization website has recorded 126 cases and 24 deaths caused by the avian influenza A(H7N9) virus.

According to Villagomez, the corporation remains vigilant against this bird flu outbreak and continuously monitors all activities from different sources such as daily updates from WHO and from the U.S. Centers for Disease and Control, among other sources.

The corporation is also in close contact with airlines and airport officials on the issue, he said.

"What we're doing here in the CNMI, we continue to monitor on a daily basis. We're getting feedback from airlines and the CBP [Customs and Border Protection] as well. All intelligence that come our way, we're not holding them but actually leaning forward to," said Villagomez.

Although there has been no confirmation of human-to-human transmission of the viral strain, Villagomez said the CNMI cannot relax at this time.

"It remains sporadic and it's something that we shouldn't be relaxed on. We're monitoring all our sentinel sites, including Rota and Tinian areas," Villagomez said, adding that risk communication materials are being distributed in community and schools to make sure that the CNMI maintains its awareness.

Also ready since Day 1, Villagomez said, is the Commonwealth Health Center where test kits are on standby for whoever may be tested for possible symptoms.

"Yes, flu is all around in the CNMI and we see it on a daily basis but not this strain [bird flu]. We are prepared with our test kits and we already established a close contact in Hawaii (for expedited lab testing if necessary) in the event we identify potential cases," he said.

To this date, the Commonwealth remains free of the symptoms of the bird flu virus and no tests have been administered because they do not meet the criteria of the strain found in China, he added.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio also confirmed the absence of suspected bird flu cases on the island.

MVA also monitors travelers' influx to the CNMI and closely coordinates with travel partners in key markets like China.

Over $322K re-appropriated for Saipan projects

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed Friday the first Saipan local law of the 18th Legislature, re-appropriating and amending the use of a total of $322,844 in developer's tax for different Saipan projects.

House Local Bill 18-4, Draft 1 is now Saipan Local Law 18-1.

Rep. Antonio R. Agulto (IR-Saipan), main author of the bill, said yesterday that the bill will help fund road projects, basketball courts, and school bus shelters, among others.

Under the new local law, $200,344 appropriated from Saipan Local Law 16-1 for various Precinct V projects will be re-appropriated as follows: $185,344 for various Precinct V projects, and $15,000 for the CNMI Mock Trial team traveling to the national championships in Indiana.

The remaining $122,500 is part of an amendment to Saipan Local Law 17-16. Under the new local law, $85,000 will be for various Precinct II projects and to complete the Niyok Road project, while another $37,500 will be for various Precinct V projects.

Precinct V gets a total of $222,844 from SLL 18-1, and Agulto said he will continue to work with his fellow lawmakers and the administration to fund more projects.

"We are working diligently with the administration and colleagues to accomplish all our missions. I thank the governor for signing this bill; this is good news," Agulto told *Saipan Tribune*.

Besides Agulto, the other co-authors are Reps. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), Christopher D. Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), and Mario Taitano (IR-Saipan).

The governor signed the local bill 10 days after the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation passed it. At the time, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores and Henry Hofschneider again asked the delegation to set aside $40,000 so that the mayor's office can buy a bucket truck, to no avail.

Woman allegedly assaults boyfriend

A woman was arrested Friday for allegedly assaulting her boyfriend at their residence in China Town for not telling her where to find a tube used to smoke methamphetamine or "ice."

Tissa Tenith Taitano Babauta, 32, was taken to Superior Court yesterday on charges of assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. Her bail was set at $5,000 cash.

Police detective Therese S. Kintoki stated in her report that a police officer from the Koban Unit in Garapan was dispatched Friday night to a residence in China Town in response to a report of a disturbance.

Kintoki said that a man met the responding police officer and disclosed that his girlfriend, Babauta, slapped and punched his face.

Another woman told the officer it was she who called the police because she saw the beating.

Babauta told the officer that she was mad because her boyfriend would not tell her where to find a clear glass tube used for smoking "ice."

Babauta allegedly pushed the boyfriend on the chest, then slapped and punched him on the face. She allegedly also kicked the boyfriend in the back.

A witness arrived and called for police assistance. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

RED CROSS SUPPORTERS
Oleai Elementary School students receive their prize packages from American Red Cross representatives on Monday, May 6, during a flag-raising ceremony held at OES. Students who pledged $75 or more for ARC's Walkathon, held last April, received a PIC waterpark pass and $5 coupons to McDonald's, Subway, and Hollywood Theaters.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

John Hirsh, American Red Cross executive director, center, holds up a school prize package during a flag-raising ceremony at Oleai Elementary School on Monday, May 6. OES won the school categories for most walkers and most pledges for this year's ARC Walkathon held last April.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Foreground from left: American Red Cross Walkathon coordinators Roselle Carreon, Nanette Hurst, and Sherwin Mendiola, of Oleai Elementary School, hold up their appreciation certificates along with their prize packages on Monday, May 6, during a flag-raising ceremony at OES. Also in the photo are Larry Lee, Walkathon co-chair, left, John Hirsh, ARC's executive director, center background, and J.D. Tenorio, ARC's Emergency Services director, right.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Winners of Our Laolao photo contest announced

»Community shares why Laolao Bay is special through images

Winning photo submission by Patrick Jerome Jr. W. Santos.

Second place photo by Amanda Maria Santos.

Honorable mention photo by Mike Ronesia.

Over 100 online viewers cast votes selecting siblings Patrick Jerome Jr. W. Santos and Amanda Marie W. Santos, and Mike Ronesia as the winners of the Our Laolao photo contest. The contest honors the one-year anniversary of the *Our Laolao-Litter Free on Land and Sea* campaign, a collaborative effort between CNMI government agencies and organizations to reduce litter in Laolao Bay and the greater Saipan community.

Photo entries, submitted via Facebook in March and April, ran the gamut, from capturing Laolao Bay's natural beauty to highlighting quality time with friends and family. The winning photograph, submitted by Cha Cha Ocean View Junior High School seventh grader Patrick Jerome Jr. W. Santos, invited viewers to appreciate the social benefits of the Bay. His photo depicts beachgoers relaxing under the shade of a festively decorated Laolao Bay hut.

"I took this photo during my nephew's birthday party; it captures the moment of togetherness," says Patrick Satnos. "Laolao Bay is a place where we come together as a family and celebrate many occasions." As the first place winner, Patrick Santos won a Kodak Playsport video camera.

Amanda Marie W. Santos won second place for her photo highlighting the work of Laolao Bay volunteers, capturing the silhouette of three Tasi Watch volunteers with the crystal clear waters of Laolao Bay as the backdrop. Amanda Santos, a sophomore at Northern Marianas College who is studying natural resource management, took this photo as a way to share how she and her friends feel about Laolao Bay.

"When my friends look out to Laolao Bay, they see what I see: the richness and value," says Amanda Santos. "I enjoy looking out and seeing tiny fish swim by and watching the shore birds try to catch their meal."

For her photo, Amanda Santos won a complimentary lunch for two at Shenanigans Restaurant.

The photo contest committee also recognizes the underwater photo, titled "Sea Monster," submitted by photographer Mike Ronesia. Ronesia took this photo roughly two years ago when a school of thousands of Atuli (Big Eyed Scad) swam through Laolao Bay.

"In my eight years diving on Saipan, I have never seen a school of fish as big as it was that day," recalls Ronesia.

In addition to highlighting an important ecological occurrence, Ronesia's photo embodies his favorite pastime at Laolao Bay. "It is our go-to year round spot for diving, where I get a chance to be one with nature and meditate any stress away," he says.

About Our *Laolao*

The Our Laolao campaign strives to capture people's stories about why they cherish Laolao Bay and in the process, inspire everyone to help keep it litter-free for future generations. The campaign encourages community members to share their Laolao stories and continue to raise the drumbeat for taking care of this cultural, historical, and community treasure. The campaign is a unique collaborative effort between CNMI government agencies and organizations led by the Division of Environmental Quality, the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, Coastal Resources Management, the Division of Fish and Wildlife, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Coral Reef Conservation Program, and SeaWeb.

To view the winning photos, visit https://www.facebook.com/OurLaolao. To learn more about the Our Laolao Campaign visit www.ourlaolao.com. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS Class of '93 reunion meeting

The Marianas High School Class of 1993 will be having a class reunion meeting on Wednesday, May 8, 2013, starting at 6:30pm at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion. For more information, contact Maryann Borja-Arriola at 483-2279 or Vivian Sablan at 288-1129. ***(PR)***

Air Force, Navy training on FDM, Warning Area 517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on May 6 from noon to 4pm and on May 7-9 from 10am to 3pm. The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 May 7-8 from 8am to 4pm. The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. (PR)

Health and safety trainings

The American Red Cross is scheduled to conduct Preparedness Health & Safety trainings on the following dates:

- May 7 at 5:30pm: Adult First Aid/CPR/AED Blended Learning
- May 8 at 5:30pm: Adult CPR/AED Blended Learning
- May 15 at 6pm: Adult CPR/AED
- May 16 at 6pm: Pediatric CPR/AED
- May 25 at 8am: Adult CPR/AED

Classes are held at the chapter training room on Airport Road. Blended Learning courses involve online courses with in-person skills exam and require at least 48-hour preregistration. Course fees apply. For more information on the courses listed or other certification courses, contact the chapter office at 234-3459 or visit www.redcross.org/take-a-class. ***(ARC)***

Veterans outreach this week

This is to inform all veterans that Tina San Agustin, the senior veteran's service representative, and Lee Stahli, veteran's service representative from Guam and the CNMI, will be on Saipan for a veterans outreach on veterans' federal benefits. They will also be entertaining questions and assisting with claims.

San Agustin and Stahli will be on Saipan on Thursday, May 9, 2013, from 9am to 4:30pm, and on Friday, May 10, 2013, from 8am to 3:30pm, both at Ruth Coleman's office at Suite 206 of the Marina Height Building II.

If you wish to make an appointment or for further information, contact Bernie B. Dela Cruz at the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs at (670) 664-2650/59. ***(PR)***

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
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Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ROMEO G. DE JESUS, Petitioner,	]	**FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0588**
versus	]	**SUMMONS**
GERLIE V. BELAMIDE-DE JESUS, Respondent.	]	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOUR ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma Hustisia, Ilimwal Aweewee, House of Justice. P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 19th day of December, 2012

/s/Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 13-028

Opening Date: Tuesday, May 07, 2013
Closing Date: Monday, May 20, 2013

Warehouse Technician

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the division manager or his/her designee. Provides direction to Warehouse Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction; Performs inventory adjustments on over/understated quantities of material in inventory; Prepares receiving reports on inventory stock items received; Provides accounts payable copies; Closes inventory month-end reports for all warehouses; Prepares inventory on all contracts and CIP materials; Performs physical inventory of all stock items; edits and posts final counts; and Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

LOCATION(S): **Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: $7.28 to $12.13 per hour.

CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

POSITION(S): One (1).

Minimum Requirements: High School diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) or Adult School (AS) diploma through the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program and four years of warehouse experience. Applicants proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel 2010 or higher are preferred. Knowledge of: Office machines; Materials management principles; Safety procedures; Preventative maintenance principles; Inventory control principles; Basic mathematics. Skills in: Assigning and monitoring work of lower level staff; Conducting inventory; Operating office equipment; Operating warehouse equipment such as forklifts and pallet jacks; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a CNMI driver's license or one from a U.S. jurisdiction. Pre-employment drug testing required.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

FSM gets $7.3M in Compact payments

In April, the Department of Finance of the Federated States of Micronesia received Compact Grant Assistance payments from the U.S. government totaling $7,337,960.

These payments were for Compact Sector Grants and Supplementary Education Grants, as listed below:

- Education Sector Grants $2,560,000
- Infrastructure Grants $1,981,960
- Health Sector Grants $1,506,000
- Supplementary Education Grants $ 720,000
- Capacity Building Grants $ 185,000
- Private Sector Development Grants $ 185,000
- Enhanced Reporting and Accountability Grants $ 108,000
- Environmental Sector Grants $ 92,000
- This amount is provided as support and development to the states of the FSM and the FSM national government as follows:
- Chuuk $3,612,420
- Pohnpei $1,553,206
- Yap $1,238,097
- Kosrae $ 922,637
- National government $ 11,600

Kosrae is in the spotlight again, with the dedication ceremony for their Public Safety Building, held on April 18, 2013. The expansion includes a prisoner's kitchen and a mental health wing. The project also included, renovations to the old building.

The United States makes grant assistance awards to support and improve the capacity of the FSM to develop the human, financial, and material resources necessary to improve and provide education, health care, private sector development, protection of the environment, public sector capacity building, and public infrastructure, with priorities in the education and health care sectors. ***(PR)***

3 hearing-impaired FSM students DC-bound

Three Federated States of Micronesia hearing-impaired students and their Pohnpeian chaperone, Juleen Manuel, left on April 29 for a Washington D.C.-based program sponsored by the Department of State.

This "Sports United" program includes 16 other hearing-impaired youth from the Pacific region who will participate in two weeks of activities, including track and field, team-building, leadership training, meeting with sports organizations, attending workshops, and visiting historical sites.

The students will also visit a number of schools for the hearing-impaired, allowing them to interact with hearing-impaired youth from the U.S.

The three students—Diana Ganngir, Imelda Tulensru, and Joyceleen Panuel—hail from Yap, Kosrae, and Pohnpei, respectively, and range in age from 15 to 18. Because the three students have American Sign Language in common, they can communicate fluently with each other, despite each having a different native language. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left to right, Diana Ganngir (Yap), Imelda Tulensru (Kosrae), Joyceleen Panuel (Pohnpei), and Juleen Manuel (Pohnpei).

May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

WASHINGTON—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) issued the following statement last week marking the first day of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

"I join my colleagues in celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage month, and urge all Americans to take time to learn about the many achievements, contributions and sacrifices APAs make to our nation," said Bordallo. "This year, the 113th Congress welcomed a record five new APA members and the most diverse group of members in the history of the U.S. House of Representatives. This month also gives us an opportunity to draw attention to the disparities and obstacles APAs continue to face every day. As Vice Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I am committed to working with my colleagues and fellow members to overcome these challenges and advance legislative priorities to help improve the quality of life of our APA community."

RNC statement

Republican National Committee chair Reince Priebus and co-chair Sharon Day released the following statement commemorating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month:

"This month, we honor the countless contributions Asian Americans, South Asians, and Pacific Islanders have made to our great country," said Chairman Priebus. "In every field imaginable--from arts and entertainment and science and technology to public policy, business, and military service--Americans of Asian and Pacific descent have strengthened the fabric of the nation.

"This is a time to celebrate our friends and neighbors in our communities throughout this nation and to become more aware of their rich traditions, culture, and heritage. This is a chance to recognize the impact of their work, innovation, and leadership on our daily lives. At the same time, we also recall the challenges this community has faced in the past and in the present so that working together we can build a better future."

"Generations of Asian and Pacific immigrants have come to the United States in search of the American Dream," said Co-Chair Day. "While their home countries were different and their languages many, their common motivation was the same as that shared by all who have come to America: a good life earned from hard work and a good education.

"America is grateful for that spirit, which has resulted in a stronger and more diverse country. So as we honor the Asian-Pacific community, we should also recommit ourselves as a nation to ensuring that America remains the Land of Opportunity for all." ***(PR)***

BATTALION CLEANUP

A total of 26 cadets (from Bravo and Delta Company) from the Manta Ray Battalion, together with JROTC instructor CSM Richard Basa had a community service to help clean and beautify our community on Saturday, May 4, 2013, in Garapan. Cadets picked up 220 lbs of trash from the DFS stoplight to the Happy Market from 8:30am to 10:30am. About 15 trash bags were filled up and were disposed of at the Division of Solid Waste Management in Lower Base.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 7, 2004

Some retirees want their jobs back

Government retirees are seeking exemptions from re-employment restrictions to be able to return to government service. Members of the NMI Retirement Fund board said yesterday that at least two retirees were granted the exemption last month. They included Victor Lifoifoi and Miriam Seman. Yesterday, three more names were set for the board's discussion and eventual approval: Juan L. Babauta, Monica Lizama, and Jose R. Bermudez. These retirees have reportedly been approved for exemption by Gov. Juan N. Babauta. Authorities said exemptions for the re-employment of government retirees require the governor's approval, except for teachers, doctors, nurses, and other professionals.

CDA: Gateway financing a dead issue

As far as the Commonwealth Development Authority's board of directors is concerned, the Northern Marianas College's proposed financing for its Pacific Gateway project is now dead. "It's over. We did what we had to do. We couldn't go any further. This issue is now dead," said CDA board chair Sixto Igisomar in an interview yesterday. He said the CDA board has no plans to revive the issue in the near future "unless there is a new notice." Igisomar said that he has foreseen the situation that the Gateway project is in now.

May 7, 2005

CDA lifts moratorium on direct loans

More than $1 million has been identified as available for lending, after the Commonwealth Development Authority lifted Thursday the five-year moratorium on direct loans. According to CDA, 50 percent of the available funds was allocated to commercial loans of over $25,000 while another 30 percent was budgeted for commercial loans amounting to $25,000 and under. The remaining funds are being put aside for marine and agricultural loans. CDA announced that it will start accepting applications for new loans starting June 1, 2005. The moratorium was put in place in 2000 due to delinquent loan payments resulting from the 1997 Asian economic crisis.

Babauta OKs medical referral escort bill

Gov. Juan N. Babauta has approved a bill that provides for the expenses of medical referral escorts but he expressed a number of concerns, including the legislation's lack of funding source. The governor, in a transmittal letter to the Legislature, said that Senate Bill 14-82, which seeks to fund the travel and accommodation of escorts who accompany patients for off-island medical referral, would ensure that patients "can be cared for and assisted by a family member of friend." "This ensures that our families and loved ones are not left alone while undergoing medical treatment," said Babauta. The new legislation, authored by Sen. Joseph Mendiola, provides that the government shall pay for the expenses of a family member or a friend to escort patients that are sent off-island for treatment.

May 7, 2006

Another casino MOA signed

The Fitial administration signed Friday a memorandum of agreement with a Los Angeles-based casino investor for a casino operation on Tinian. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said during Friday's news briefing that the agreement was signed between the Department of Public Lands and Hollywood Park Casino. The casino, owed by Hong Kong-born Leo Chu, is located in the famous Hollywood Park Racetrack. It is said to be the first casino in the United States located in a racetrack. Hollywood Park Casino representative Charlie Dizon earlier said that Chu is very interested in bringing his operations to Tinian. Dizon led a fact-finding team to Tinian this week.

Call-A-Ride obtains $90K federal funding

The CNMI Call-A-Ride Program has finally seen the light with the help of a federal grant through the CNMI Public School System. Thomas J. Camacho, special assistant for disability policy and programs, announced during Friday's news briefing at the Governor's Office the allocation of $90,000 as financial assistance to the program by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration. PSS Commissioner of Education Rita H. Inos had written CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities director Antonio C. Chong early last month that PSS was able to secure federal funding for the program, after being asked to secure the grant by vice speaker Justo Quitugua and other representatives of the Governor's Office.

32nd NMC Charter Day

NMC

The winners of the HiLux Truck & Sports Compact Car Show take time to pose for a group photo with representatives from the NMC Charter Day committee.

NMC

NMC Nursing Club president Carina Train falls into the dunking booth at the recently held Charter Day festivities. The dunking booth was a fundraising effort from NMC's Phi Theta Kappa group.

NMC

Francis Villamin poses with his first place '94 Honda Civic Hatchback at the recently held HiLux Truck & Sports Compact Car show at the Charter Day grounds.

NMC

Members of the Refaluwasch Cultural Club perform a traditional island dance at the 32nd annual Charter Day.

Limit Crew wows the crowd with their dancing at the NMC Charter Day festivities.

NMC

NMC

Above, members from Uncle Ben's Dance Studio do a Zumba dance number in the earlier part of the Charter Day program.

NMC

Members of the Refaluwasch Warriors cultural dance group perform the Carolinian Maas during the 32nd annual Charter Day festivities at NMC.

NMC

A member from the NMC Nursing Club checks a student's pulse at the Nursing Club booth at the 32nd Annual Charter Day festivities.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Finapos estudiante

In' fagcha'e tinilaikan Navy yan Interior gi sisienta'i unu na sakan. Megai mañainata mana' fan para gi che'chu' niha. Sin ditension, matutuhon man-gualu' yan peska para umasustene prebinsion nesessidat familia.

Dañkulu na aminasu $.75 gi ora gi tiempon Navy yan $.16 gi ora gi administrasion Depattamenton Interior. Appenas cho'chu' ya soluke mañufa' hau gi gualu' yan tasi, kase yeñgyuñg damagas balimu todo dia.

Fotte na chinatsaga in' fana'. Megai gi estudiante sumuñgun man-mamokat para eskuela sin propiu alimientu gi estomagun niha. Ayu ham gumu'ot i hanom maneñgheñg gi drinking fountain. Este na pinadese fuetsau in' usune kontodu hagu'i gi kanton tasi para totchen familia.

Mampos bahu kinalamten familia lau ni unu sumeha fumalague hagas tradision tanu': fangualu'an yan tasi. Repara lokue' sa' kada sumakadache' i ekonomia, ta bira hit tatte gi dos tradision natibu. Haf' mohon i silensiu na mensahe gi finalaguen linala' natibu deste antigu na tiempu?

Makat na fina'pos na kontodu kasunes tatahu defuntu malagsiye-yu ginen addeñg kasunesña. Esta hana' matmanyu' sa' haye ha' lumi'e ayu na kasunes mamaisen manu 'nai mafahan. Huna' lachagu' ineppeghu tat kumu, "I Town House" giya Guam. Haf' na Town House soluke kauhau tatahu antes. Hu tuñgu' lokue' na ha tampen ñaihonyu' i Saina gi todu finaposhu mattirun tiempu. Biba para i fiet na Gachoñg-hu!

Sessu lokue' gi oran amotsan talo'ane humame yan defuntu amiguhu Tom Saures man-ñgasñgas dadek yan asigan guaka. Dispues, in' katsu este yan hanom maneñgheñg gi drinking fountain. Hame ha' na dos malili'e guihe entalu' class. Sumen makat lau patte gi mañge' na memorias fina'pos estudiante antes.

■ ■ ■

Mesñgon na mañaina

Todu pot todu man-gaige mañainan mame yan familia siha gi oriya. Ha tanom si biuhu Elias P. Sablan dinaña familia kada Dameñgo giya Oleai.

Kada unu konsu tarehaña gi kusina. Dispues in' dana'e mañainan mame man-ekuñgog estorian antes siha. Este solu na pisu 'nai siña man-manuñgo' ham finapos niha yan mañainan niha mismu. Ai na bulan grasia 'an sige pa'gu masañgan tiempon Japones.

Dispues de minachom atdau, man-hanau todus para iya siha man-yayas ginen manadan chaleg yan grasia. Estague' lokue' na dinaña 'nai in' titiñgu' haye siha parentela.

Gi katkuet manera lokue', todus man-listu gi ina'ayudan haye mas numesessita ayudu. Ni unu sumeha man-na'e ginen gineftau korason niha.

Unu gi mas ti siña u malefan ñaihon i pinekathu oga'an Dameñgo yan si Tata para i gima' Yuus iya Oleai. Guiya numa'e i gima' Yuus nu ayu na tanu dispues man-ayuda amanu i siña gi mahatsan kuetpon Guma Yuus San Jose.

Kanaha' guahu kase gi halom ñietus siha tumatiye finaposña si Tata gi bandan offisiu pot magahet na tatnai hu hatme politika. Hu tuñgu' haf' matago-hu ginen hilu—offisiun mañgge'—ti politika. Estague' uttimoña fafayihu.

See FINAPOS on Next Page

Kim chi's Seoul

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara is an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church and was pastor of Saipan Immanuel UMC at the second millenium's turn. He now writes from China.

If the title leads the reader to think we are intimating Korean soul, or just the Korean soil, they would not be too far afield. Our teacher neighbor from Korea at SAU hosted a well-attended Korean corner for Chinese and international students, and he certainly came off well with his aromatic kimchee.

News of the day carried the shift that cherry blossom watching has moved from Tokyo to Seoul, particularly in its downtown Han River isle where the *yinghua* is in glorious bloom.

We clarify our word game. Readers are familiar with the word "Kim," not just of the dynastic triumvirate that has ruled the hermit kingdom of North Korea, but also the fact that a fourth of Koreans around the world are surnamed "Kim." This phenomenon is traced to an old declaration that the royal family rose from the geography of Kim. So now, everyone is a Kim. Get it?

"Chi" is also spelled "Qi" in China, referring to nature's life force, comparable to the Hindu *chakra.* The seven critical *chi* centers of *kung fu* and other motion meditations correspond to the sacred *chakra* of *Om* contemplation.

Less religious, but religiously devoured is the kimchee, the fermented vegetable dish of spiced Napa cabbage, with a scent that the French prefer to banish with *toilette du cologne* but affectionately relished as aphrodisiac in the close quarter breaths of the *kaereng* and the *wonha.*

Seoul is, of course, the capital city of South Korea, pronounced more like "soul" rather than with the tinge of the "e."

If we haven't gotten you focused on Korea yet, you have not been paying attention. Or rather, you have been ignoring repeated headlines of late. Western media has been demonizing the hermit kingdom's reactive bellicosity, and dares its young head of state Kim Jung Un to push the N-button.

Get this picture, though. Huff Post's recent photos taken along a North Korean dock in Sinuiji along the Yalu river from Dandong are not close to threatening. The recent KPA landing and anti-landing drills DPRK conducted to counter the US-SK annual maneuvers were basic infantry stuff.

Both sets of pictures were shown to backdrop the sentencing of Kenneth Bae, aka *Bae Jun Ho,* the American tour guide and evangelical anti-starvation warrior of NK's hungry, who is also an inveterate camera clicker in areas where he knew better than snap a shot, like the special northeast economic zone on the border of Russia and China!

(The press refers to Bae as operating from "the border city of Dalian," a city that sits at the Liaoning promontory, but hardly a border city. Dandong is a border city by the Yalu river.)

Juxtaposed to these series of telephoto'd frames (one has Kim Jung Un lauding military-made accordions and guitars; that is threatening!) are those of the recently concluded joint US-SK military maneuvers. Prominent were photos of the US F-22 Raptor stealth fighter planes that recently flew back into the peninsula's air space, along with the self-propelled solid R-55 Howitzers. Most telling were the anti-chemical suits of the U.S. Army's 23rd Chemical Battalion that recently returned to Camp Stanley north of Seoul after leaving the base in 2004.

Only a dimwit will fail to recognize who is threatening who. In fact, with the onset of spring, members of the PKA rolled up its sleeves last week to assist farmers plant their once-a-year rice crop on their precious *juche* (self-reliance) agro-terrain.

We are not defending the regime of Kim Jung Un and his Stalinist government, where the economy is centrally commanded and such basic provisions as food, housing, and clothing are provided for from the public till. It would be foolish to claim that this works, particularly after the droughts and flooding, and the accompanying famine that was the concern and target of Bae's evangelical zeal.

What we find painfully laughable is that we continue to use North Korea to justify our military expansion into the Western Pacific, of which, the Marianas would be immediately affected, even now as Pagan of the northern territories and Tinian south of Saipan are seriously considered for testing live military firepower.

There is a bitter aftertaste to our adulation of Spartan discipline, even as our congressional rep affixes his signature to the banner celebrating our contribution to U.S. presence in Afghanistan. (Afghan Karzai just revealed that the Kabul CIA station has been handing tons of cash to his government since the Talibans were banished, and hopes that it will not end soon after his government stalled on negotiations re continuing U.S. presence.)

Colleagues who rely on the CNMI Retirement Fund continue to decry its imminent demise, wondering what had happened along the way. We would not venture too far from President Johnson's discovery that we could not afford to keep two fronts, e.g., the War on Vietnam and the War on Poverty at the same time. The amounts we spend on military hardware alone tell us where we went off the road.

Our unofficial 51st State of Korea is where we might have misplaced our Seoul!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Respect

Editor's Note: The following is the complete text of the speech that won Mount Carmel School senior Anastasia Schweiger the championship at the annual Attorney General's Cup Speech Competition on Friday, May 3, 2013, at the Supreme Court.

By ANASTASIA SCHWEIGER
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Man ngi ngi' is a Chamorro practice I learned while growing up in Tanapag. By bowing one's head, kissing an elder's hand with your nose, and saying ñora or not, man ngi ngi' is a simple but profound gesture that shows one's respect for the man'amko. It is a respect that my father has taught me all my life, a deep respect for this place that I call home.

So when I prepared for today's topic, I realized that very few people and very few countries have given the Northern Marianas and its people the respect they so deserve.

Throughout the CNMI's history, foreign powers have made major decisions for these islands without knowing much about them, let alone having the common decency to ever visit them when making those decisions.

This history has been nothing short of disrespectful, an insult to the cherished tradition of *man ngi ngi'*.

However, I fear that now, we stand poised to make that same mistake about the Northern Islands, about which we know very little and to which many of us have never been.

That is why I stand here today to argue that we should *not* pursue economic development in the Northern Islands.

To begin with, in the spirit of *man ngi ngi'*, rather than seeing them as the ultimate jackpot, we should treasure the Northern Islands as family heirlooms that we preserve for future generations.

We need to live by the Native American proverb: We do not inherit the land from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.

With that in mind, we have to remember that the profit of today may be the ultimate sacrifice of tomorrow.

For instance, mining pozzolan may be the next black gold rush, but it will strip Pagan dry, leaving it polluted, barren, and vulnerable to erosion.

Commercial farming may make us the bread basket of Micronesia, but like other countries that have over-farmed their soil, that could suck the land of all its nutrients, leaving it infertile for countless generations.

And commercial fishing could result in overfishing that depletes our oceans of the one food staple that the islands have relied on for centuries.

Yes, these economic developments may bring money today, but what about tomorrow?

What happens when we have mined the last ounce of pozzolan? What happens when we have harvested the last coconut? And what happens when we have caught the last fish? When that happens, we will realize that we cannot eat money.

Like the Iroquois nation, when making decisions, we must consider their impact on seven generations into the future.

If we are to ensure that our islands are here for the next seven generations, rather than developing the Northern Islands, we should preserve them.

This brings me to my second point.

In order to preserve the Northern Islands, we need to enact legislation that gives us more control over these islands.

Current federal legislation gives the CNMI jurisdiction over less than three miles off the coast of each island. That leaves hundreds of miles of ocean that we have absolutely no control over.

How are we to protect against overfishing in those waters? How are we to prevent illegal undersea mining? How are we to regulate any kind of maritime activity?

The U.S. Coast Guard may patrol these waters, but who decides what is acceptable and unacceptable in our submerged lands? Shouldn't those decisions be made by the people who live in these islands?

But it's not just about submerged lands.

As far back as 1971, a Use and Occupancy Agreement between the U.S. government and the former Trust Territory governments permitted the use of Farallon de Medinilla as an aircraft and ship ordnance impact target area. In other words, a place to drop bombs, all for one measly payment of $20,600.

And now the U.S. Department of Defense wants to do the same with Pagan, destroying its environment, its character, and its people?

As Northern Islands Municipal Council member Diego Kaipat put it, "If Pagan is taken by the military, residents will become the real endangered species."

Aside from the military, even environmental activities have taken away our control of the Northern Islands. Specifically, the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument gave the federal government control over almost 100,000 square miles of the entire Northern Marianas, or about a third of the CNMI.

So between submerged lands, military lands, and environmental lands, our Commonwealth controls only a small fraction of the actual area of the NMI.

How are we to preserve our Commonwealth, let alone the Northern Islands, without the basic authority to make decisions about these islands?

We cannot protect, we cannot preserve our own home if we don't even have the keys to that home.

Therefore, the U.S. Congress must enact legislation that gives the CNMI more authority to regulate its own waters. Only then will we be in a position to preserve all our islands, not just the Northern Islands.

However, I know that more control will require that we become more responsible in how we handle our islands, which brings me to my third and final point.

In order to preserve the Northern Islands, we need to become better stewards of all our islands. And that will only happen when we change the way we think about economic growth.

Famous British economist John Clapham once said, "Economic advance is not the same thing as human progress."

We, in the CNMI, have proven this point all too well.

Just look at us now. What did the economic advance of the '80s and '90s bring us? A large influx of foreign workers that overwhelmed our infrastructure and led to human rights abuses resulting in federalization. A real estate rush that led to families turning on each other and ultimately losing much of their land. And the construction of more hotels and garment factories than we ever needed, which led to red-flagged beaches, sewage overflows, and Mount Puerto Rico.

Sure, these things brought in money, but at what cost?

Communities plagued by crime, drugs, gambling, and domestic violence? A government driven into corruption by bribery, greed, and cronyism? And a Westernized culture that values money over family, friends, and community? Yes, there has been economic advance, but not human progress.

The solution to these problems, and the key to becoming better stewards of our islands, can be found in what I started with: the essence of *man ngi ngi'*.

In his book, *The Rope of Tradition*, Lino Olopai demonstrates this essence when describing the traditional way of building a canoe. Noting that a breadfruit tree provides the best kind of wood for a canoe, Lino explains how before the canoe is even built, the family on whose land the tree is found is consulted at length, sometimes for several weeks. And even when the family finally gives permission to cut down the tree, the canoe builders carry out a ritual that involves talking to the spirit of the tree.

This traditional process of building a canoe is not a simple and quick financial transaction. You don't just order it online and have it delivered. It is a dialogue that cultivates relationships, community bonds, and appreciation for both nature and people.

It's not about cost. It's about value. It's not about money. It's about respect. And to me, that's what *man ngi ngi'* is all about: respect.

Today's topic asked us to "take into account the needs of the residents of the Northern Islands." Well, in my opinion, they deserve more than just being taken into account. They deserve our utmost respect.

Because who else has been on the front lines fighting the militarization of the Northern Islands? Who else has learned to live in balance with nature? Who else respects their islands as much as they do?

So, no, we should do more than just "take their needs into account." We should salute them, and learn from them, and listen to them.

Because they live by something my Uncle Frank Aguon taught me a long time ago growing up in Tanapag, that if you take care of the land, it will take care of you.

And that is what we must do. We must take care of the Northern Islands and honor them as we would honor our own *man'amko*.

And in the spirit of *man ngi ngi'*, let us bow our heads in humility, kiss them with love, and treat them with respect.

Thank you.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

No to extension of transition period

The two main reasons I oppose an extension of the CNMI transition period are:

1. Half our young people don't graduate high school. We know what happens to the upper half; they go to college, join the military, or seek work in the U.S. mainland. Those opportunities aren't available to the other half, and they stay here. Between now and 2019, over 2,500 of our kids will join 2,500 others from the past 6.5 years unable to join the military, go to college, or work in our hospitality industry because the hotels and their subsidiary businesses prefer more experienced alien workers willing to work cheap. Our public schools aren't financially equipped to fund the alternative educational programs that those students need. These challenged young citizens face uncertain futures and the CNMI faces the societal effects unchecked poverty will guarantee. The only reasonable solution is to make sure those citizens are guaranteed work in the hotels, restaurants, as tour guides, front desk, taxi drivers, security guards, and all general labor positions.

The CNMI businesses and hotels claim that they can't operate without alien labor, but that assertion is exaggerated and promulgated by their preference for cheap, experienced foreign labor. These businesses insist they can't survive without them all. The typical training time for a semi-skilled machine operator in the industrial belt is one to two weeks, and the training period for CNMI housekeeping, general labor, or security is insignificant.

We must prepare unemployed citizens to fill all available jobs in the hospitality industry.

2. Next spring 3,000 of our retirees will face disaster, and some number, whether it's 1,000 or 1,500, will be able and willing to work. The only reasonable solution is to have them work as security, taxi drivers, tour guides, food service, and housekeeping. If we extend the transition period 6.5 years out to 2019, we will be making anther grave mistake toward our "retiree" work force, dooming them to compete with an alien workforce, and we shouldn't allow that to happen.

If the hotels do need more workers; they have an H visa program, and being more costly gives them reason and incentive to hire citizens. It's as economically simple as that. And our small alien-owned businesses seldom hire a citizen and that must be stopped.

The Fitial regime succeeded in burning the Retirement Fund and the current administration apparently has equally abiding support for big business. The only question is, "who is watching out for our young citizens?"

CNMI parents and retirees must demand action from the Legislature and Congress to stop a transition period extension to 2019; to do otherwise will hurt our citizens.

We have a chance to build a better Commonwealth, one that employs and empowers citizen stakeholders. Build America, invest in America, and employ Americans, as nothing else is acceptable.

Ron Hodges
Puerto Rico, Saipan

FINAPOS

From Page 10

Neñkanu' Natibu

Ayu na tiempu 'nai hu chage mirendan atulen harina, mai'es yan alaguan ni mana' ginachuñge ni pika na finadeni' inasnen tukun.

Paire lokue' fresku na titiyas mai'es ni makusecha gi hatdin familia. Magugan, matala', ma-eskome dispues maguleg gi mitate. Kontodu atmayas paire na fina' mirenda.

Otru agu'on natibu ha inklusu tininon yan linemog lemai, linemog sune, tamales mendioka, aga', choda; saibog kamute, choda, mendioka, sune, dagu yan nika.

Totche sumasaunau tinala' guihan yan katne, fritadan guaka, babue, yan chiba, katdon manog fresko yan motsiyas, yan tininon paluma. Todu klasen finatinas guaha gi tetchen natibu ni hasan tali'e pa'gu. Bula lokue' fina' pastre deste buchibuchen papaya yan kalamasa, ruskete, boñelos dagu yan aga', yan otru siha fina' mames tat kumu ahu. 'Nos kuantos fina' kelaguen guaha deste manog, higadon yan katnen guaka, guihan tat kumu atulai, tiau, manineñg, satmoneti, kachu', yan mahimahi (dofin).

Lau esta pa'gu ti komprendyon haf' na i finatinas nanan biha mas paire na sentada? Kau pot ha payune mesklan antigu yan guafen foggun hayu?

■ ■ ■

Kanaha' todu guma' umu'usa foggun sanhiyuñg guihe siha na tiempu. Paupau i señgsoñg 'an chatagmag yan lemlem tautau 'nai sige i familia man-na'lagu amotsa yan sena.

Tuñgu'un haf' na amotsa guaha sa' mampos oppan sabotña gi aire. Piot ya tininon guihan pat katne gaige gi hilu' guafe. Tat bisinu ti nina' famañot. Kanaha' todu este siha hu tuñgu' muna' lagu. Sumen magahet na todu mañge' gai minakat mafatinasna. Gai molestia tat kumu ka'et pañglau yan motsiyas. Lau ke chage un' dia pot para unna' kontentu paladatmu.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

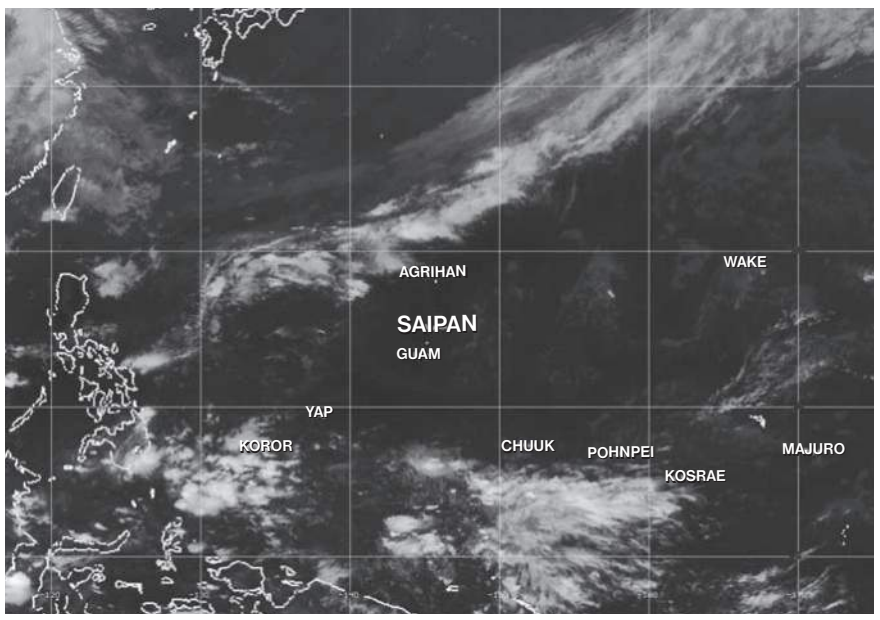
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼82
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲92	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼81
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼80
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲64	▼59
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼63
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲79	▼76
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼71
London	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼55
Los Angeles	Showers	▲67	▼56
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲93	▼84
Melbourne	Sunny	▲73	▼54
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼66
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼56
Osaka	Sunny	▲70	▼53
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲71	▼59
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼55
Rome	Showers	▲67	▼56
Salem	Sunny	▲76	▼50
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼55
Seoul	Sunny	▲73	▼51
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼55
Washington, DC	Showers	▲68	▼60

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MAY 6, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from 25N154E to 17N135E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found between the northern CNMI and Iwo To island along and up to 300 miles northwest of the shear line. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with a surface trough east of Mindanao are found near Koror within 150 miles of a line from 7N134E to 4N130E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Chuuk and Pohnpei between the equator and 6N from 143E to 161E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:33 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
6:28 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
1:25 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
7:44 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Wednesday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Thursday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM
Friday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM
Saturday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:39 AM	4:18 PM
Wednesday	4:20 AM	5:09 PM
Thursday	5:02 AM	5:59 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	6:31 AM	7:40 PM

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  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	2:55am	6:35am	1
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)			
SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:55am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:55am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7
BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN			
SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:00am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

1-294th IN RGT takes charge in Afghanistan as TF Guam

By CPT GORDON GUERRERO
TASK FORCE GUAM PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CPT GORDON GUERRERO
LTC Michael Tougher, left, 1-294th Infantry Regiment commander, removes the casing of his unit's flag during a Transfer of Authority ceremony in Afghanistan. Battalion CSM Melchor Hennegan, right, is assisting with the removal of the flag casing.

KABUL, Afghanistan—The Guam Army National Guard's 1st of the 294th Infantry Regiment formally took control of a vital security force mission during a ceremony at Camp Eggers, in the Afghanistan capital Wednesday.

Known as the "Transfer of Authority," or TOA, the Guam Army National Guard battalion will operate as Task Force Guam with its nearly 600 soldiers spread out in units located at key locations throughout Afghanistan. It replaces Task Force Centurion Prime, the Alabama National Guard's 1st of the 167th Infantry, which had a similar mission throughout Afghanistan for the past nine months.

LTC Michael Tougher, battalion commander of Task Force Guam, said soldiers of the Chamorri battalion have been preparing nearly two years for this deployment, and are ready to take this mission from Task Force Centurion Prime.

"TF Guam is very lucky to have the benefit of relieving such an outstanding and professional organization as the 1st Battalion, 167th Infantry. LTC Bass, his leaders and soldiers, have set the conditions to ensure that my battalion is well positioned to assume responsibility for our mission in support of the NATO Training Mission - Afghanistan. We will not give up any ground already gained by the Fourth Alabama and we will endeavor to ensure the continued progress of this mission. TF Guam is prepared, ready and willing to meet any challenges we will face in this regard," Tougher said.

The Guam Army National Guard battalion's deployment preparation included a couple of annual training missions at Camp Roberts, Calif., in May and October 2012 with the assistance of the California National Guard, and members of the 1-196th IN BDE, as the Pre-mobilization Training Assistance Element. This was followed by mobilization training at the Camp Shelby Joint Force Training Center, Missouri, prior to the deployment into Afghanistan in mid-April.

Before the TOA, soldiers from the seven companies that make up Task Force Guam conducted a "right seat ride" for several days with their Task Force Centurion Prime counterparts to learn about the areas they are operating in, and the lessons learned in conducting the missions. Once that was complete, the companies held their own TOA ceremonies leading up to the Task Force TOA.

Although Task Force Guam soldiers are spread throughout Afghanistan and working directly with other commanders, 1-294th Infantry Regiment CSM Melchor Hennegan said, "The 1st Battalion 294th Infantry Regiment soldiers are ready for our missions in all the Regional Support Commands throughout Afghanistan. The very thing I love about our soldiers is, no matter how rough things got in preparation for our mission, they kept focused, had great attitudes, and stayed highly motivated. Their hearts bonded and their camaraderie is unmeasured."

Both Tougher and Hennegan also praised Task Force Centurion Prime for making the transition an easy one.

The transfer of authority now means the soldiers of Task Force Centurion Prime can begin making their way back home to Alabama, to be reunited with their loved ones.

The mission now belongs completely to Task Force Guam until it is replaced by another unit sometime in the late winter or early spring of 2014. Task Force Guam works directly with NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan as part of the International Security Assistance Force.

This deployment, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, is the latest combat campaign in the unit's short but proud history.

The battalion was first constituted on Oct. 1, 1987, in the Guam Army National Guard, as the 294th Infantry under the United States Regimental System. Units from the 1-294th Infantry Regiment have answered the call in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, from 2004 through 2010, deploying to the Horn of Africa, Afghanistan, and the Philippines. This deployment will mark the first time the entire battalion or a Reserve Component unit this large from Guam has deployed in support of the Global War on Terror.

CHIEF MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST PAULA LUDWICK
Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Joseph Santos, left, U.S. Pacific Fleet Sea Sailor of the Year, and Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Cassandra Thompson, U.S. Pacific Fleet Shore Sailor of the Year, pose for a photo after the announcement of the 2012 Pacific Fleet Sailors of the Year at the Hale Koa Hotel.

Sailor from Saipan is Pacific Fleet's Sailor of the Year

SANTA RITA, Guam—Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Joseph Santos, Marine Aircraft Group 24, was named U.S. Pacific Fleet's 2012 Sailor of the Year during a ceremony held at the Hale Koa Hotel in Waikiki on April 12.

Santos competed amongst 10 petty officer first class finalists who were also recognized at the ceremony by Adm. Cecil D. Haney, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Santos was born on Saipan on Nov. 25, 1981, and graduated from John F. Kennedy High School on Guam before joining the Navy.

His awards include the Purple Heart, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Navy Good Conduct Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Sharpshooter Rifle Medal, Sharpshooter Pistol medal and the Fleet Marine Force Warfare Specialist device.

Santos is also set to be meritoriously promoted to the rank of chief petty officer.

In February 2004, Santos deployed with the 1st Marine Division deploying to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with 2D Battalion, 1st Marines.

He is married to Easton Messick and has a 10-year-old daughter, Keana Nero. ***(PR)***

Naval Base Guam walks for child abuse prevention

By JEREMY STARR
MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS
U.S. NAVAL BASE GUAM PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Naval Base Guam community participated in the Second Annual Walk for Children on NBG on April 26 in an effort to spread awareness about child abuse prevention.

In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, children and staff from the Child Development Center as well as personnel from the Fleet and Family Support Center walked around the CDC with a banner displaying the message, "Keeping Children and Youth Safe is Everyone's Business."

"We are knowledgeable about the fact that there is child abuse and we have to end it, and it is a teamwork approach," said Capt. Mike Ward, the base's commanding officer. "We also need to recognize it and intervene to prevent it when it is happening to protect our children."

FFSC Family Advocacy Program Educator Erlinda Montecalvo set up the event to bring the base community together and express the the importance of child abuse awareness.

"One of the things is that the campaign won't only end in April but we will continue here at NBG to educate and to provide resources to our community on child abuse prevention," she said.

Joy Goodrich, assistant director of the Child and Youth Program (CYP) at the CDC, said staff taught the kids lessons about child abuse awareness from the information they received from the FFSC.

"I think it went really well," she said. "The children were completely involved and I think they understand what they were walking for."

Goodrich added that the CYP will continue to promote outreach events like the walk with parents whose children are enrolled in the CDC.

Legalman 1st Class (AW/IDW) Susan Braun, of NBG, walked the parking lot with the children and said it was important for parents who have their child in the CDC to come out and support these events.

"While it is understandable that a mission and work come first, we still need to make effort out here to show our children and support the CDC," she said. "As parents we do care for the things that they are supporting and involved in."

To learn more about NBG, visit www.cnic.navy.mil/guam.

APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH
KEEPING CHILDREN AND YOUTH
SAFE IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS.
FLEET & FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER: 333-2056

Capt. Mike Ward, commanding officer of U.S. Naval Base Guam, walks with children, parents, Fleet and Family Support Center and Child Development Center staff during the Second Annual Walk for Children event in front of the CDC on base April 26. The walk was an FFSC outreach event to promote April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

JEREMY STARR

Business

Compulsive gambling funds off pace of new casinos

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Tom Leksan lost nearly everything when gambling became an addiction with easy access to casinos.

Once an Ohio lawyer, Leksan lost his job and marriage because of gambling, specifically blackjack. He had been gambling for years, he said, but did not become a problem gambler until he became hooked on riverboat casinos in nearby Indiana.

"I think the casinos thrive off the compulsive gambler," said Leksan, now a car salesman in northern California. "They pay lip service to treating problem gambling, but that's their bread and butter."

The unrelenting spread of casino gambling across America is reaping billions of dollars for the industry and government coffers but is also creating more compulsive gamblers. Addiction experts say the sums spent by states for treatment and counseling are too little to keep pace.

Even after the worst recession in decades and during a weak economic recovery, developers are building new casinos and adjoining attractions with the blessings of cash-hungry states. Ohio opened its first casinos last year, casino developers are vying for permission to build three casinos in Massachusetts, and New York City's new Resorts World Casino at the Aqueduct racetrack is also shaking up casino gambling in the Northeast.

AP

In this May 13, 2008 file photo, one of the slot machine rooms at the new MGM Grand Hotel stands ready for the start of business at the Foxwoods Resort Casino in Mashantucket, Conn.

Advocates for an expansion of treatment services point to enormous gaps between the money states are taking in and what they are spending on compulsive gambling. For example, casinos and card rooms in Pennsylvania generated about $2.3 billion in revenue in 2010 and the state transferred $17.5 million in casino revenue into its Problem Gambling Treatment Fund between 2007 and last year.

Connecticut's casinos, off-track betting and the state lottery generated nearly $659 million in state revenue in 2012 while problem gambling services that include counseling, treatment and a toll-free phone number for gamblers received $1.9 million.

"Even as you see an expansion of gambling you're not seeing a level playing field in treatment," said Mark Vander Linden, president of the Association of Problem Gambling Service Administrators.

Linden's organization, in a 2010 report, found that 37 states were providing public funding for gambling programs - at a combined total level of just over $58 million. Nevada alone reported casino and card room gambling revenue that year of $10.4 billion, according to Casino City's North American Gaming Almanac.

About 2.6 million gamblers characterized as pathological, or unable to resist the impulse to gamble, are estimated to need treatment each year, the Association of Problem Gambling Service Administrators says.

Problem gambling is defined as behavior that causes physical, psychological, social or job disruptions. It is progressively addictive as gamblers become preoccupied with betting and require more frequent bets with more money. It can be as mild as spending too much at a slot machine, card table or convenience store selling lottery tickets or taken to the extreme, compulsive gambling results in overwhelming debt, divorce and sometimes crime such as embezzlement to raise money to pay off gambling debts.

Ray Pineault, executive vice president and chief operating officer at Mohegan Sun in Connecticut, said Mohegan Sun and neighboring Foxwoods Resort Casino contribute plenty—nearly $326 million last year as required by their agreement with the state—but the state spends too little to treat problem gambling.

"I don't think the state does significant funding," he said.

Are you a tax cheat if you shop online tax-free?

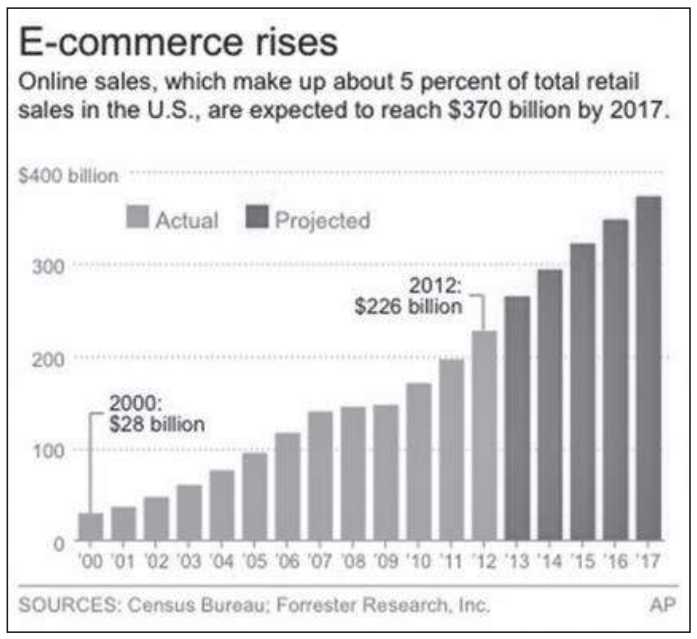
WASHINGTON (AP)—Buy anything on the Internet lately without paying sales tax? In all but a few states, you're probably a tax cheat.

That's right, even if Internet retailers don't collect sales tax at the time of the purchase, you're required by law to pay it in 45 states and the District of Columbia.

Here's the problem for states: hardly anyone pays the tax, and there's not much states can do about it.

The Senate is expected to pass a bill Monday making it easier for states to collect sales taxes for online purchases. Some of the nation's largest retailers are rejoicing. But small-business owners who make their living selling products on the Internet worry they will be swamped by new requirements from faraway states.

"It's a huge burden for a company like ours," said Sarah Davis, co-owner of Fashionphile.com, a California-based company that sells high-end pre-owned handbags and purses. "We don't have an accounting department, we've got my father-in-law."


E-commerce rises
Online sales, which make up about 5 percent of total retail sales in the U.S., are expected to reach $370 billion by 2017.
$400 billion
300
200
100
0
Actual
Projected
2012: $226 billion
2000: $28 billion
'00 '01 '02 '03 '04 '05 '06 '07 '08 '09 '10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17
SOURCES: Census Bureau; Forrester Research, Inc.
AP

Davis started the company in 1999 and now runs it with her brother-in-law. They have 26 workers and three stores, in Beverly Hills, San Diego and San Francisco. Last year, Fashionphile.com did $10 million in sales, the vast majority of it online, Davis said.

Fashionphile.com sells bags directly from its website and on eBay. The company collects sales taxes from customers who live in California, but not from people who live in other states, Davis said. Under the law, states can only require stores to collect sales taxes if the store has a physical presence in the state.

That means big retailers, such as Wal-Mart, Best Buy and Target, with stores all over the country collect sales taxes when they sell goods over the Internet. But eBay, Amazon and other online retailers don't have to collect sales taxes, except in states where they have offices or distribution centers.

As a result, many online sales are essentially tax-free, giving Internet retailers an advantage over brick-and-mortar stores.

New jobs and energy gains helping lift US economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—A stronger-than-expected April rebound in job creation and recent dramatic discoveries of vast U.S. oil and gas reserves are helping to lift the American economy out its long funk.

The economic good news is also drawing attention to the importance of private-sector innovation rather than government policy in fostering growth.

The Labor Department's report that payrolls expanded by 165,000 jobs last month and the unemployment rate declined to a four-year low of 7.5 percent does not represent explosive job growth by any measure.

Yet the report offered a big sigh of relief to President Barack Obama and his Democratic allies in Congress.

It also may help blunt Republican criticism of Obama's policies and make it easier for him to give more attention to other issues on his agenda, including immigration, gun control and global warming.

At the same time, it provided the GOP with more support for their call for a smaller government and fewer regulations on business.

The recent jobs improvements were mostly driven by private-sector gains independent of action by the president and Congress.

Most legislative fiscal stimulus programs, begun in 2008 under President George W. Bush and expanded under Obama, have run their course. The Federal Reserve, however, continues to stimulate the economy by holding down interest rates and effectively printing money to buy government and mortgage-related bonds.

In fact, the report showed employer confidence about the economic outlook even in the face of new federal budget cuts. Economists widely agree that job gains would have been bigger were it not for the automatic across-the-board cuts that are beginning to take an $85 billion bite out of government spending.

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said that while the report had "some good news" on the jobs front, it was still important to "focus on growing our economy rather than growing more government." He said that includes "expanding our energy production."

The energy sector plays a major role in global economic growth and recovery.

Recent discoveries have put the United States on track to become the world's largest producer of oil and natural gas in a few years. At the same time, oil imports have fallen to a 17-year low.

Obama to launch series of trips on economic plans

WASHINGTON (AP)—Immigration, guns and national security are dominating the discussion on Capitol Hill, but Americans by and large are still focused on their bottom line. So President Barack Obama is launching a series of quick jaunts around the country to remind Americans he's still got jobs and the economy on his mind.

Obama will kick off the effort Thursday with a trip to Austin, Texas, the White House said. While in Texas, the president will visit a technical high school and meet with entrepreneurs. He'll also drop in on a tech company and talk with blue-collar workers.

The trips come as Obama, less than four months into his second term, is facing increasing skepticism from political allies and foes alike that he still has the clout to get big things done before the 2014 midterm elections creep up and his ability to set the agenda diminishes. Those concerns have been compounded by a failed push on gun control and a similarly unsuccessful effort to avert automatic spending cuts that took effect in March. Obama traveled repeatedly outside Washington to rally Americans to urge Congress to act on both fronts, but with questionable results.

Progress on the economy provides one opportunity to promote something positive—especially after a solid jobs report on Friday kicked the unemployment rate down a notch to 7.5 percent, a four-year low that offered hope that the U.S. economy is healthier than many had feared. Still, Republicans have criticized Obama over the past four years for announcing several times that he was pivoting back to an issue they say should have taken top billing all along.

Nation

5 women die in limo fire on Calif. bridge

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A limousine taking nine women to a party erupted in flames, killing five of the passengers, authorities and the mother of one of the survivors said Sunday.

The limo caught fire at around 10 p.m. Saturday on one of the busiest bridges on San Francisco Bay, California Highway Patrol officer Art Montiel told The Associated Press.

Five of the women were trapped, but the four other women managed to get out after the vehicle came to a stop on the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge, the patrol said.

San Mateo County Coroner Robert Foucrault, who is investigating the deaths, said their badly-burned bodies were found near the partition that separates the driver from the passengers, suggesting the women tried to use the window opening to escape the fast-moving fire that began in the back of the limo.

Rosita Guardiano told the San Francisco Chronicle that the woman for whom the bachelorette party was being thrown was to be married next month. Guardiano said her daughter was one of the survivors.

Investigators haven't determined what sparked the fire, but the patrol said the white stretch limo became engulfed in flames after smoke started coming out of the rear of the vehicle.

A photo taken by a witness and broadcast on KTVU-TV showed flames shooting from the back of the 1999 Lincoln Town Car.

Aerial video shot after the incident showed about one-third

SOURCE ESRI AP

of the back half of the limousine had been scorched by the fire. Its taillights and bumper were gone and it appeared to be resting on its rims, but the remainder of the vehicle didn't appear to be damaged.

The driver of the limo—46-year-old Orville Brown of San Jose—was the only person to escape unhurt.

It wasn't clear how he managed to escape without injury. Investigators Sunday afternoon were still seeking witnesses, the CHP said.

"Four people got out, as far as what was going on inside, I don't know," CHP officer Jeremy Lofstrom said Sunday. CHP investigators Sunday afternoon were still seeking witnesses to the incident.

All five women were pronounced dead at the scene. Autopsies were being conducted, San Mateo County Supervising Deputy Coroner Michelle Rippy said.

The company that operated the limo was identified as Limo Stop, which offers service through limousines, vans and SUVS.

A telephone message left at the company seeking comment by The Associated Press wasn't immediately returned. Attempts to reach the driver were also unsuccessful.

Guardiano said her daughter—42-year-old Mary Grace Guardiano of Alameda—was being treated for smoke inhalation.

The three other women who escaped the fire, Jasmine Desguia, 34, of San Jose; Nelia Arrellano, 36, of Oakland; and Amalia Loyola, 48, of San Leandro, were taken to hospitals to be treated for smoke inhalation and burns, the patrol said.

Desguia and Loyola were listed in critical condition, said Joy Alexiou, a spokeswoman for Valley Medical Center. The condition of Arrellano, who was taken to another hospital, was not known.

Uncle is arranging Boston bomb suspect's burial rites

WORCESTER, Mass. (AP)—The uncle of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev arrived in Massachusetts on Sunday to arrange for his burial, saying he understands that "no one wants to associate their names with such evil events."

Ruslan Tsarni, of Montgomery Village, Md., and three of his friends met with the Worcester funeral home director and prepared to wash and shroud Tsarnaev's body according to Muslim tradition. The 26-year-old died after a gun battle with police on April 19.

Funeral director Peter Stefan said he hasn't been able to find a cemetery in Massachusetts willing to take the body. He said he plans to ask the city of Cambridge, where Tsarnaev lived, to provide a burial plot, and if Cambridge turns him down, he will seek help from state officials.

Cambridge City Manager Robert Healy said in a statement Sunday there has been no formal application for a burial permit or purchase of a cemetery plot. He said he is urging Tsarnaev's family and the funeral director who has the body not to request a burial permit for the city-owned Cambridge Cemetery.

Healy says it would not be in the best interest of the city to execute a deed for a plot at Cambridge Cemetery.

"The difficult and stressful efforts of the citizens of the City of Cambridge to return to a peaceful life would be adversely impacted by the turmoil, protests, and wide spread media presence at such an interment," Healy said.

He said the families who have loved ones interred at the cemetery also deserve to have their deceased family members rest in peace. He said other federal agencies should take the lead in the burial.

Stefan did not immediately return a call Sunday night seeking comment on Healy's statement.

AP

San Mateo County firefighters and California Highway Patrol personnel investigate the scene of a limousine fire on the westbound side of the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge in Foster City, Calif., on Saturday, May 4, 2013.

ACROSS THE NATION

Cause of California wildfire appears accidental

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—Investigators have ruled out arson as the cause of a huge Southern California wildfire that was 75 percent contained Sunday after burning through coastal mountains and threatening thousands of homes. Continuing cool, moist air significantly reduced fire activity and helped firefighters build containment lines around the 44-square-mile fire at the western end of the Santa Monica Mountains. Officials expected full containment late Monday. Investigators said the cause of the fire was not considered suspicious. Instead, they believed it was started by a small, "undetermined roadside ignition of grass and debris" on the edge of U.S. 101 near Thousand Oaks, said Tom Piranio, a spokesman with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Fever hits thousands in parched West farm region

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—California and federal public health officials say valley fever, a potentially lethal but often misdiagnosed disease infecting more and more people around the nation, has been on the rise as warming climates and drought have kicked up the dust that spreads it. The fever has hit California's agricultural heartland particularly hard in recent years, with incidence dramatically increasing in 2010 and 2011. The disease—which is prevalent in arid regions of the United States, Mexico, Central and South America—can be contracted by simply breathing in fungus-laced spores from dust disturbed by wind as well as human or animal activity. The fungus is sensitive to environmental changes, experts say, and a hotter, drier climate has increased dust carrying the spores.

Giffords receives Profile in Courage award

BOSTON (AP)—Former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords received the 2013 Profile in Courage award at the John F. Kennedy Library on Sunday in recognition of the political, personal, and physical courage she has demonstrated in her fearless public advocacy for policy reforms aimed at reducing gun violence.

Giffords, who was seriously wounded in a 2011 shooting when a lone gunman opened fire as she met with constituents in a Tucson, Ariz., shopping mall, and her husband, former astronaut Mark Kelly, have been lobbying for more gun control legislation.

This year, on the second anniversary of the January shooting, the couple started Americans for Responsible Gun Ownership, an organization that "supports the right to bear arms and responsible public policy on guns and gun ownership."

Caroline Kennedy, President of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, presented the award to Giffords.

Kennedy took a moment to salute the first responders and the citizens of Boston. Referring to the Boston Marathon bombings last month, Kennedy said, "All Americans have been inspired by the countless acts of selfless bravery and compassion we saw during the violence that struck this city on Patriots Day."

In presenting the award to the former Arizona Congresswoman, Kennedy said, "Gabby Giffords has turned a personal nightmare into a movement for political change."

Earlier Sunday, Giffords and Kelly spent time visiting victims of the marathon bombings at Spaulding Rehabilitation Center in Boston.

"For victims of the Boston Marathon bombings, we extend our deepest sympathies to all of you who have endured violence and loss," Kelly said.

"Courage means doing everything we can to prevent other parents from having to endure that loss," he said.

Alluding to her disappointment in Congress' failure to pass gun control legislation last week, Giffords called for courage from lawmakers.

"I believe we all have courage inside," she said. "I just wish there was more courage in Congress."

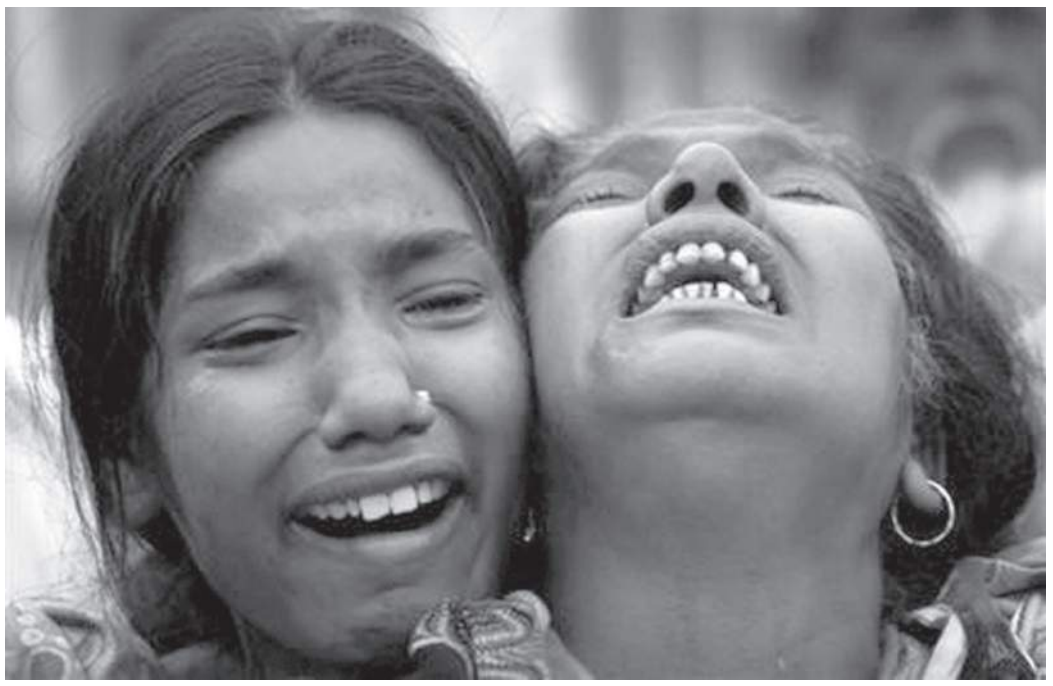
"It's been a hard two years for me," Giffords said, "but I want to make the world a better place more than ever."

Kelly also praised his wife.

"There are people who make things happen. There are people who watch things happen. And there are people who wonder what just happened," Kelly said. "Gabby Giffords is a person who makes things happen."

Asia

Bangladesh building-collapse toll tops 600



AP

A woman is comforted as she grieves after identifying the body of her daughter, a victim of the garment factory collapse, Sunday, May 5, 2013 in Savar, near Dhaka, Bangladesh.

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—More than 600 bodies have been recovered from the garment-factory building that collapsed well over a week ago, police said Sunday as the grim recovery work continued in one of the worst industrial accidents ever.

Police said Sunday night that the death toll had reached 622. Well over 200 bodies have been recovered since Wednesday, when authorities said only 149 people had been listed as missing. The stench of decomposing bodies remains amid the broken concrete of the eight-story Rana Plaza building, and it is anyone's guess how many victims remain to be recovered.

The April 24 disaster is likely the worst garment-factory accident ever, and there have been few industrial accidents of any kind with a higher death toll. It surpassed long-ago garment-industry disasters such as New York's Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire, which killed 146 workers in 1911, and more recent tragedies such as a 2012 fire that killed about 260 people in Pakistan and one in Bangladesh that same year that killed 112.

An architect whose firm designed the building said Sunday that it had not been designed to handle heavy industrial equipment, let alone the three floors that were later illegally added. The equipment used by the five garment factories that occupied Rana Plaza included huge generators that were turned on shortly before the building crumbled.

Masood Reza, an architect with Vastukalpa Consultants, said the building was designed in 2004 as a shopping mall and not for any industrial purpose.

"We designed the building to have three stories for shops and another two for offices. I don't know how the additional floors were added and how factories were allowed on the top floors," Reza said.

"Don't ask me anything else. This is now a sensitive issue," Reza said before hanging up.

Malaysia's long-ruling coalition hangs on to power

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's long-governing coalition won national elections with a weakened majority to extend its unbroken, 56-year rule, fending off the strongest opposition it has ever faced but exposing vulnerabilities in the process.

The Election Commission reported that Prime Minister Najib Razak's National Front coalition captured 133 of Malaysia's 222 parliamentary seats Sunday, down slightly from the 135 it held before Parliament was dissolved.

Opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's three-party alliance seized the remaining 89 seats. It even edged the National Front in the popular vote by more than 200,000 of at least 10.5 million ballots cast, according to several initial independent estimates. Opposition activists have long complained of gerrymandering.

It was the National Front's 13th consecutive victory in general elections since independence from Britain in 1957. It faced its most unified challenge ever from an opposition that hoped to capitalize on allegations of arrogance, abuse of public funds and racial discrimination against the government.

Najib urged all Malaysians to accept his coalition's victory. "We have to show to the world that we are a mature democracy," he said.

"Despite the extent of the swing against us, (the National Front) did not fall," he said in a nationally televised news conference.

Anwar signaled the opposition might dispute the results, saying "irregularities" cost his alliance numerous seats with narrow margins.

ASIAN BRIEFS

8 Pakistani soldiers and police killed in violence

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—Military operations and insurgent attacks in lawless districts of Pakistan left eight members of the security forces and around 30 militants and criminal suspects dead on Sunday, officials said. Two soldiers and 16 militants were killed in clashes in the Tirah Valley area of the Khyber tribal region in the northwest, the military said in a statement. Another three soldiers were wounded in the remote mountainous district near the Afghan border. The army launched an offensive last month into the valley targeting the Pakistani Taliban and an allied group, Lashkar-e-Islam. The military statement said the latest fighting forced the militants to flee from two of their hideouts, leaving behind a huge cache of arms and ammunition.

Violence as Bangladeshis demand anti-blasphemy law

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Police in Bangladesh's capital fired rubber bullets to disperse stone-throwing Islamic activists Sunday during a protest to demand that the government enact an anti-blasphemy law. The activists were among thousands demonstrating around Dhaka, blocking roads and cutting off the city from the rest of the country. Police said protesters also set many shops and at least 30 vehicles on fire. Authorities deployed more than 15,000 security forces in the capital. Clashes broke out in central Dhaka as activists started pelting police with stones, a police official said. He spoke on condition of anonymity under local briefing rules.

World

Israeli airstrikes on Syria prompt threats

BEIRUT (AP)—Israel rushed to beef up its rocket defenses on its northern border Sunday to shield against possible retaliation after carrying out two airstrikes in Syria over 48 hours—an unprecedented escalation of Israeli involvement in the Syrian civil war.

Syria and its patron Iran hinted at possible retribution, though the rhetoric in official statements appeared relatively muted.

Despite new concerns about a regional war, Israeli officials signaled they will keep trying to block what they see as an effort by Iran to send sophisticated weapons to Lebanon's Hezbollah militia ahead of a possible collapse of Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime.

Israel has repeatedly threatened to intervene in the Syrian civil war to stop the transfer of what it calls "game-changing" weapons to Hezbollah, a Syrian-backed group that battled Israel to a stalemate during a monthlong war in 2006.

Since carrying out a lone airstrike in January that reportedly destroyed a shipment of anti-aircraft missiles headed to Hezbollah, Israel had largely stayed on the sidelines. That changed over the weekend with a pair of airstrikes, including an attack near a sprawling military complex close to the Syrian capital of Damascus early Sunday that set off a series of powerful explosions.

The Israeli government and military refused to comment. But a senior Israeli official said both airstrikes targeted shipments of Fateh-110 missiles bound for Hezbollah. The Iranian-made guided missiles can fly deep into Israel and deliver powerful half-ton bombs with pinpoint accuracy. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was discussing a covert military operation.

Syria's government called the attacks a "flagrant violation of international law" that has made the Middle East "more dangerous." It also claimed the Israeli strikes proved the Jewish state's links to rebel groups trying to overthrow Assad's regime.

Syria's information minister, Omran al-Zoubi, reading a Cabinet statement after an emergency government meeting, said Syria has the right and duty "to defend its people by all available means."

Israeli defense officials believe Assad has little desire to open a new front with Israel when he is preoccupied with the survival of his regime. More than 70,000 people have been killed since the uprising against Assad erupted in March 2011, and Israeli officials believe it is only a matter of time before Assad is toppled.

Still, Israel seemed to be taking the Syrian threats seriously. Israel's military deployed two batteries of its Iron Dome rocket defense system to the north of the country Sunday. It described the move as part of "ongoing situational assessments."

Israel says the Iron Dome shot down hundreds of incoming short-range rockets during eight days of fighting against Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip last November. Hezbollah fired some 4,000 rockets into Israel during the 2006 war, and Israel believes the group now possesses tens of thousands of rockets and missiles.

The Iron Dome deployment followed a surprise Israeli drill last week in which several thousand reservists simulated conflict in the north. In another possible sign of concern, Israel closed the airspace over northern Israel to civilian flights on Sunday and tightened security at embassies overseas, Israeli media reported. Israeli officials would not confirm either measure.

Reflecting fears of ordinary Israelis, the country's postal service, which helps distribute government-issue gas masks, said demand jumped to four times the normal level Sunday.

Israel's deputy defense minister, Danny Danon, would neither confirm nor deny the airstrikes. He said, however, that Israel "is guarding its interests and will continue to do so in the future."

"Israel cannot allow weapons, dangerous weapons, to get into the hands of terror organizations," he told Army Radio.

Israeli defense officials have identified several strategic weapons that they say cannot be allowed to reach Hezbollah. They include Syrian chemical weapons, the Iranian Fateh-110s, long-range Scud missiles, Yakhont missiles capable of attacking naval ships from the coast, and Russian SA-17 anti-aircraft missiles. Israel's airstrike in January destroyed a shipment of SA-17s meant for Hezbollah, according to U.S. officials.

Israeli officials said Sunday they believe that Iran is stepping up its efforts to smuggle weapons through Syria to Hezbollah because of concerns that Assad's days are numbered.

They said the Fateh-110s reached Syria last week. Friday's airstrike struck a site at the Damascus airport where the missiles were being stored, while the second series of airstrikes early Sunday targeted the remnants of the shipment, which had been moved to three nearby locations, the officials said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Syrian rebels shoot down regime helicopter in east

BEIRUT (AP)—Activists say Syrian rebels have shot down a military helicopter in the country's east, killing eight government troops on board. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights on Monday posted a video online showing several armed men standing in front of the wreckage. One of the fighters in the footage says it's a helicopter that the rebels shot down late Sunday in the eastern province of Deir el-Zour, along Syria's border with Iraq. As the man speaks, the camera shifts to a pickup truck piled with bodies. The fighter is then heard saying that all of President Bashar Assad's troops who were aboard the helicopter were killed in the downing.

Attacks in Iraq kill 9, wound 33

BAGHDAD (AP)—A series of attacks including a blast near an Internet cafe in a Sunni area of Baghdad killed nine people and wounded dozens on Sunday in and around the Iraqi capital. The attacks came amid heightened sectarian tension following a deadly security crackdown on a camp in northern Iraq run by Sunnis, protesting what they consider to be their second-class treatment by the Shiite-led government. Government investigators say the April 23 incident left 40 people dead, while a spate of follow-up attacks and battles has killed well over 200 more. The bloodshed has raised fears that the country could be heading for a new wave of sectarian fighting like that which nearly pushed it to the brink of civil war in the middle of the last decade.

Libya bans Gadhafi-era officials from state posts

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Under pressure from armed militias, Libya's parliament passed a sweeping law Sunday that bans anyone who served as a senior official under Moammar Gadhafi during his 42 year-long rule from working in government. The Political Isolation Law could lead to the dismissal of many current leaders, some of whom had defected to the rebel side during the country's 2011 civil war or had been elected to office since Gadhafi's ouster and killing. The move is likely to further stall the country's already rocky transition to democracy by ousting elected lawmakers. It injects a new dose of uncertainty into Libyan politics during a still-fragile transition. Liberals say it will give a boost to Islamists, who performed poorly in recent elections compared to their counterparts in other Arab states, although Islamists said they could also be affected by the ban.

Focus

AP

A pharmacist at the Kaeson Clinic in the Moranbong District of Pyongyang, North Korea gathers traditional "Koryo" medicine for a patient waiting at the window on Feb. 21, 2013.

Ginseng, bear bile: NKoreans look to OLD CURES

By MARGIE MASON
AP MEDICAL WRITER

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—The Man Nyon Pharmacy is lined with rows of colorful packages containing everything from dried bear bile and deer antler elixir to tiger bone paste and ginseng. But the ancient "Koryo" medicine provided at this popular dispensary isn't just for minor aches and pains.

It has been integrated into the health system from the smallest village clinic all the way up to the nicest showcase hospitals in the privileged capital of Pyongyang. Both modern and traditional styles of healing have long been uniquely intertwined nationwide with doctors from both schools working in tandem under one roof.

North Korean physicians say many patients prefer traditional medicine to the Western kind, but it's difficult to determine the true situation in this closed and impoverished society where access is limited. Defectors, foreign aid workers and North Koreans agree that many Western drugs are scarce and say villagers still forage for plants in some areas to make their own herbal concoctions.

With the U.N. Security Council imposing its toughest-ever sanctions following North Korea's third nuclear test in February, patients may become even more dependent on these home-grown remedies in a country of 24 million people where government health spending ranks among the world's lowest.

"Doctors are more interested in Koryo medicine rather than Western medicine because they can get it more easily," said Ri Hye Yong, who manages the frigid concrete pharmacy opened by the government nearly three decades ago. "It's much cheaper."

The latest restrictions are meant to squeeze new young leader Kim Jong Un and the ruling class by clamping down on access to foreign travel and luxury goods. North Korea has responded with tirades that include threatening nuclear attacks against the U.S. and its allies.

The resolution is not supposed to block donor aid to those who need it most, including the two-thirds of the population who don't have enough to eat. But foreign aid workers say years of limitations have created a maze of red tape and approvals needed to ship in medical supplies and equipment. Some countries refuse to process payments for anything involving North Korea because of restrictions placed on banks, while some foreign companies and organizations simply do not want to be involved once they learn where the materials are headed. But once the goods arrive, they say the process becomes fairly simple.

"Even though the imposed sanctions clearly exclude humanitarian assistance, a negative impact on the levels of humanitarian funding has been experienced," the U.N. Resident Coordinator's Office in Pyongyang said in a statement April 29, adding nearly three-quarters of the $147 million needed this year has not been received.

The World Health Organization is lacking an estimated 60 percent of the drugs it needs for at-risk kids and pregnant women, while the U.N. Children's Fund is struggling to get vaccines and medicines to prevent the biggest killer diseases among children, it said.

In addition, the WHO says the process of importing essential equipment and medicine has also grown lengthy at all levels, and those involved have become over cautious in clearing materials to ensure they could not be classified as dual purpose or luxurious items.

International efforts to help boost the country's ability to produce its own vaccines and medicines were earlier affected when some technology and seed microbes were halted over concerns they could potentially be used by Pyongyang for malicious purposes, WHO said.

Despite these challenges, it's difficult to understand the full picture within North Korea where outsiders are banned from traveling freely and data are lacking or unreliable. Suspicion of the outside world is reinforced by huge hospital propaganda paintings depicting Americans and Japanese as the country's "sworn enemies."

Jang Jun Sang, a department director at the Ministry of Public Health, said in an interview in February that sanctions have cut imports of medical equipment and supplies.

But he said North Korea was used to sanctions. "If we receive medical aid, that's good," he said. "But if we don't, that's fine, too. We're not worried."

North Korean factories have limited ability to produce pharmaceuticals, and many rural clinics lack electricity, running water and heating. By the government's own account, more than 80 percent of village clinics suffer from "chronic shortages of medicines and supplies at all levels of the system."

According to defectors such as Kwon Hyo-jin, some drugs are smuggled in from neighboring China and marketed while others are taken from hospitals and sold illegally. All health care is supposed to be free in North Korea.

Kwon said he was forced to buy an IV drip as well as antibiotics, painkillers, and other Western medicines from China after suffering bouts of food poisoning and later while hospitalized with a broken leg in 1997 in the northeastern city of Chongjin. He recalled a hospital bed swarming with lice and a tap that spewed muddy water and worms.

The 52-year-old, who defected to South Korea in 2009 and now works at the Seoul-based Committee for the Democratization of North Korea, said he tried to avoid hospitals in the North altogether. Instead, he visited Koryo doctors usually for upset stomach, back pain and insomnia.

Traditional medicine is cheaper and easier to find. Walls of tiny wooden drawers similar to a library card catalog fill one vast room at Pyongyang Medical College, each containing hundreds of tiny paper triangles stuffed with dried herbs.

"I think Koryo medicine has mysterious characteristics," said Dr. Ryu Hwan Su, the hospital's deputy chief, who proudly displayed a jar filled with a fat ginseng root believed to be more than a century old. "It heals illnesses that Western medicines can't treat."

Traditional medicine is used widely in many Asian countries, including China, Japan and South Korea, where there is no shortage of modern treatment and equipment. And while scientific research regarding the benefits of some age-old treatments is lacking, therapies such as massage and acupuncture—which can also serve as a local anesthetic—are now widely used in the West.

Some North Korean clinics have their own greenhouses, and herbs are harvested every year in the wild to be processed into teas and other concoctions. The government says Koryo medicine is used to treat more than half the patients in rural clinics. But shortages exist too.

Patients are often prescribed a simple herb they are expected to get themselves, said Dr. Byungmook Lim, a professor at South Korea's Pusan National University School of Korean Medicine, who co-authored a study comparing traditional medicine in the two Koreas.

The country began marrying traditional medicine with modern practice in the 1950s after the Korean War. Doctors were given training in Koryo medicine and each hospital was set up with a department devoted to it, with prevention as the guiding concept behind the socialized health plan. Unlike in other Asian countries where the two practices are typically kept separate, traditional practitioners in North Korea can prescribe modern drugs and assist during surgeries, while Western doctors can use Koryo treatments.

"We kept talking to each other and consulting each other," said Kim Jieun, who graduated from a Koryo school with some modern training, and practiced in North Korea as a pediatrician and internal medicine doctor before defecting in 1999. She now runs a traditional clinic in Bucheon, South Korea, and recalls that even acupuncture needles were reused in the North. She said frequent shortages of antibiotics meant high-level officials got treated first, while ordinary patients struggled to find medicines.

"I was really angry. They were the same human beings," she said. "How this could happen?"

But she believes combining the two types of treatment was actually better for patients. She said Koryo medicine - taken from the old name for Korea - was often used alone or in combination with Western drugs to treat a variety of health problems including stroke, hepatitis, high blood pressure, kidney disorders and diabetes.

And it's still done today. At the new Breast Cancer Research Center at the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, a showcase institution where The Associated Press was recently taken on a tour, patient Ri Jong Suk said she was set to be released after having a mastectomy and reconstruction surgery.

She said during her one-month stay she was given Western medicine along with Koryo treatment, including massage and acupuncture, to help strengthen her immune system, decrease swelling and circulate blood after surgery. The Health Ministry also cites hot springs, mineral water and mud among successful treatments. Cupping is another popular therapy believed to stimulate blood flow by using heated glass jars to create a vacuum on the skin.

Many of these healing techniques are also commonly used in South Korea, which is rooted in the same ancient traditional medicine as its northern counterpart. But in that country, modern and traditional medicines typically operate independently, each with its own licensing and education system.

North Korea was once dependent on the Soviet Union to keep its medical system running. But after the collapse of its patron, economic crisis and famine followed in the 1990s and Pyongyang became increasingly isolated amid growing nuclear ambitions.

The government spent nearly $9 billion on defense in 2009, according to the South Korean state-run Korea Institute of Defense Analyses. Pyongyang says it spends $900 million a year on health, but one WHO estimate put government spending at less than $1 per person in 2006. That's less than $25 million and among the world's lowest, though other reports have placed it higher.

Outside the capital, donors provide some 70 percent of the most needed drugs, which are believed to reach less than half of those in need, according to the WHO.

Meanwhile, the U.S. has accused North Korea of manufacturing and trafficking illegal drugs, such as opium and methamphetamine. It also believes the government is likely involved in peddling fake Western pills, such as Viagra.

Koryo medicine was thrust into the international spotlight when five members of the North Korean female soccer team tested positive for steroids at the 2011 Women's World Cup in Germany.

North Korean officials said the players took traditional musk deer gland as therapy after they were struck by lightning during training. Soccer authorities said they had never seen the substance found in the women's systems, and the squad was sent home in disgrace.

Overdrive

Toyota Avalon gets new look

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

With the redesigned 2013 Avalon, Toyota is seeking to appeal to those who would never contemplate buying the full-size sedan.

Maybe they should have considered a new name, or at least one that doesn't refer to the legendary island where King Arthur is buried. After all, this car has traditionally offered a similar dose of eternal serenity.

But not this time.

For the fourth generation of the Avalon, Toyota replaced last year's dowdy duds with a sculpted body sporting distinctly dynamic lines and a long, arching roof. It's a graceful counterpoint to the cluttered front end, which sports two grilles and bulging headlights that resemble an insect's eyes. The back end shows much more restraint.

The visual excitement continues inside, where the asymmetrical instrument panel design, 7-inch touch screen and touch-sensitive control panel are nestled in a shape that floats above the rest of the dashboard. This interior's sophisticated elan is a compelling contrast to the many modern car interiors that mimic Gameboy controls.

But the Avalon has gained more than a stylish demeanor; it's added a new power plant. In addition to the gas-powered Avalon, which uses the same 268-horsepower 3.5-liter V-6 engine as last year's car, the 2013 model is offered as a gas-electric hybrid, employing the system used in the Toyota Camry Hybrid.

The V-6 is rated at 21 mpg city, 31 mpg highway. That's pretty good for a 3,600-pound sedan with a big V-6 engine. By contrast, the gas-electric hybrid model is 56 pounds lighter than its sibling, which helps performance since the hybrid has 200 horsepower, 68 fewer ponies than the V-6.

Opting for the gas engine instead of the hybrid means a purchase price that's $1,750 to $2,360 cheaper, depending on trim level. But according to the EPA, the hybrid will cost $900 less to fuel annually. So, within two to three years, you'll recover the hybrid's price premium.

There are four trim levels. The base model, the XLE, comes only as a gas model, while XLE Premium, XLE Touring and Limited models come with either power train.

NUTS & BOLTS

Wheelbase: 111 inches
Length: 195.2 inches
Weight: 3,585 pounds
Cargo space: 14 cubic feet
EPA rating (city/highway): 40/39 mpg
Fuel consumption: 40.6 mpg
Fuel type: Regular
Base price, base model: $30,990
Base price, test model: $37,250
As tested: $38,270

In an effort to endow it with a modicum of sporty personality, the V-6 model has a bit of an edge that the hybrid model lacks. Oddly, I prefer the hybrid model. It has the creamy smooth refinement I would expect in an Avalon. The V-6 has noticeably more power, especially in passing situations or at mid-range speed. Then again, you may not notice due to the hybrid's impressive off-the-line torque. And its stunning fuel economy is a welcome trade-off for the slightly slower speed.

As with the previous model, the Avalon is no sports sedan. But it's much more nimble than its size suggests.

There's a newfound agility that its predecessors did not possess. Credit the car's firmer suspension. You'll definitely notice bumps, but body motions are better controlled than before. Body lean is still in evidence in corners, but it doesn't come on as quickly, and grip is stronger than expected. Even the car's steering feel is improved. You still wouldn't call it fun to drive, but it's much livelier in feel.

Elsewhere, some things remain unchanged, like the quiet, roomy passenger compartment. Head- and legroom are plentiful. The wide seats are firm, yet comfortable and supportive during a seven-hour drive. The trunk is generous in size, despite being a hybrid. Opting for the gas engine nets an additional two cubic feet of cargo space.

One feature that younger buyers, or the young at heart, will appreciate is Toyota's Entune multimedia system, which uses your smartphone to interface with apps such as Bing, iHeartRadio, OpenTable and Pandora. It displays them on the vehicle's audio screen alongside such features as real-time traffic information, navigation, weather, fuel prices, sports and stock prices.

Toyota also added two welcome features this year. One is rear cross-traffic alert, which sounds a buzzer if cars are approaching from the side and behind the vehicle while the car is in reverse. The other is a blind-spot monitor, which uses a radar to detect vehicles in the adjacent lane.

So put aside your preconceived notions. Yes, the Avalon Hybrid may seem like it's ready for a home in the driveways of active adult communities, but younger drivers will find much to appreciate in its improved handling, punchy power plants, multimedia integration, expansive cabin and spectacular fuel economy.

The 2013 Toyota Avalon has a luxury feel and distinct demeanor that's better than a Camry, but not quite as good as a Lexus ES 350. It's an attractive offering for the price, as long as you don't mind the car's name.

Larry Printz is automotive editor at The Virginian-Pilot *in Norfolk, Va. He can be reached at larry.printz@pilotonline.com.*

Chevy Silverado smells of antifreeze on outside

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I am the original owner of a 2002 Chevrolet Silverado pickup with the 5300 V-8 gas engine. After driving it, there is a distinct smell of antifreeze when you are outside the vehicle. There are no apparent leaks and the fluid level remains fairly stable. I have had it checked but nothing was found. It has gotten worse the last few months. Any ideas on how to proceed?

ANSWER: Check the simple stuff first. Is the radiator cap sealing and holding pressure? Is the heater core leaking coolant onto the floor of the passenger compartment? Is coolant weeping from the bottom of the water pump?

Check the oil on the dipstick carefully. Is there any evidence or odor of antifreeze? Has the level on the dipstick increased? The primary mechanical danger from coolant leaks, beyond the potential for overheating, is the coolant reaching and contaminating the engine oil. Ethylene glycol doesn't lubricate well, and it's corrosive to aluminum pistons. It tends to strip oil from cylinder walls and bearings, leaving these components exposed to wear and damage.

To identify internal leaks, pressure-test the cooling system and/or have the coolant chemically checked for the presence of hydrocarbons from the combustion chamber. Head-gasket leaks or cracked cylinders are the types of problems that can kill an engine.

A coolant leak from the throttle body/intake manifold gasket could allow coolant to be drawn into the combustion chambers and burned, leaving little or no evidence. But it won't do the pistons or cylinders any good.

GM issued technical service bulletin 06-06-01-019B, dated June 2007, that identifies a possible coolant leak into the oil from seepage from casting faults in specific cylinder heads manufactured by Castech. Remove the valve covers, check for the Castech casting logo and inspect the oil drain back holes for clean, shiny areas indicating evidence of coolant leakage. If this is the issue, the bulletin calls for replacing the cylinder head(s).

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Q: Recently my daughter's friend bumped into my 1996 Dodge Dakota and did $1,200 worth of damage. I promised my family and the body shop I would get it fixed. Some people say I should just keep the money. Is that legal? Or just unethical? Or neither?

A: I don't think this is a question of legality or ethics; it's a question of what you want. Do you want your vehicle repaired? Or if it's fully functional and not damaged to the point of being unsafe or illegal to drive, are you OK driving a 17-year-old truck with damage? It's your truck, and the other party is responsible for the cost of repair, but it's your call on whether you have the vehicle fixed. With that said, a promise is a promise.

Your unrepaired vehicle may no longer be eligible for collision insurance on your policy due to the damage and decreased value. But with the age and value of your truck, collision coverage wouldn't be worthwhile anyway.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: We have a 2005 Chevy Tahoe. The last couple months the speedometer is sticking. Sometimes when I start the vehicle in park, it might read 50 miles per hour. When I start driving it will go up from there. Other times it starts at zero then sticks at 55. Any suggestions?

A: Contact your Chevrolet dealer, provide the vehicle identification number of your Tahoe and ask if GM's "07187C—Special Coverage Adjustment—Instrument Panel Cluster Gauge Needle Function" covers or applies to your vehicle.

This bulletin identifies a potential issue with instrument cluster needles sticking on a number of 2003-2005 GM trucks and SUVs. The "special coverage adjustment" covers replacing the instrument cluster at no cost on affected vehicles out to seven years or 70,000 miles from the original date the vehicle was put in service. For vehicles with mileage in the 70,000-80,000 range, GM will provide the instrument cluster at no cost, but not the labor.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car*, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver.*

Life & Style

In this Thursday, May 2, 2013 photo, Philippe Lefebvre, 64, plays the organ at Notre Dame cathedral in Paris. AP

Notre Dame's new pipe organ bears HISTORY'S WEIGHT

PARIS (AP)—From the moment the teenage musician caught sight of the organ in France's most famous cathedral, he knew where he wanted to play. In the five decades since, Philippe Lefebvre has traveled the world to play what he describes as an "orchestra of one," but the organ master returns to the loft above Notre Dame and is never disappointed.

He has none of the infamy of Notre Dame's bell-ringer and is invisible to the thousands of visitors Notre Dame receives each day. But Lefebvre said he never misses the direct contact with his audience that so many musicians crave. For the 64-year-old, it is enough to be the caretaker of what he considers an almost otherworldly instrument.

He first saw it when he was 15, as a young piano student.

"I thought that there were many more possibilities than with a piano. Even though I find the piano magnificent, this is just a whole new world," he said.

A few visitors may notice the biggest pipes above the entrance, but most turn their eyes no higher than the stained glass windows along the sides. Lefebvre, when he plays, is hidden even further—behind the brand new wooden-paneled console that he compares to a cockpit—five cascading keyboards and more than 200 stops.

A century ago, six strong men were needed to pump enough air for the music. Now, there is an air compressor behind the scenes, and the newly rebuilt instrument itself has a touch-screen panel that can note "favorite" stop combinations like a browser bookmarks a Web page.

Despite the advances in organ technology, Lefebvre feels the weight of history in his job. There are deep gashes in the wood carvings of the organ loft—a legacy of revolutionaries from the late 18th century who slashed away the fleur-de-lis symbol of the monarchy. But, Lefebvre said, they refrained from melting down the metal pipes into bullets during the war after heeding pleas from Notre Dame's organ master, Claude Balbastre, who had adapted to new political realities by composing variations on the Marseillaise anthem.

Notre Dame briefly opened its organ loft on Thursday to show off the new instrument—refurbished for the cathedral's 850th anniversary this year. Each of the nearly 8,000 pipes—some of which date back to the 18th century—was individually cleaned and returned to its place. The new electronic panel, the five cascading keyboards and more than 200 stops were installed.

Lefebvre began his musical career on piano, but he says "the piano is an industrial product. Each one is basically like the other. Every organ is unique, made for a particular place."

In cavernous Notre Dame, the organ's location is unparalleled. When Lefebvre plays the opening of "Piece Heroique" a few tourists turn toward the sound. By the end of the grandiose piece, the wooden floor of the loft is vibrating, Notre Dame's arched ceiling echoes with the sound and below, flashbulbs flare upwards. A pigeon that had been roosting on one of the horizontal pipes took flight for quieter territory.

"Notre Dame's organ is particular because it is one of the only organs that has retained the traces of centuries. As the cathedral itself. So at the same time you have tones from before the Revolution, some from the 19th century similar to a symphonic orchestra, and also all the recent inputs of the 20th century. You have three or four authentic centuries of music," he said. "It resonates in the stones of the cathedral."

The big organ is played on weekends and for major ceremonies and holidays, the playing shared by three organists who have held the job since 1985.

Because organs employ the sounds of a multitude of instruments, it is usually up to the organist himself to decide the combination of stops he wants for any given piece. That decision can change according to the organ, the space and improvisational whim.

"Since sheet music didn't exist in the early years of the organ, organists improvised. This tradition continued in Europe, and especially in France," he said.

Each key, Lefebvre said, is like a letter on a computer keyboard. The stops and pedals, he said, elaborating on the metaphor, are like a font. And he can bring back 5,000 different combinations of stops with the new electronic memory. Things have changed since the keyboard that connected to the pipes by long mechanical arms. But even the most advanced organ, he said, is not built by programmers and engineers alone. "You also must be a musician."

And organists themselves are untethered to any one instrument. Lefebvre said he has played thousands of organs around the world, gleaning something from each one.

Still, Notre Dame remains his ideal as it was when he was young.

"Here in Notre Dame when you play a tone, it resonates for eight to nine seconds. It is exceptional—the sound spreads across the whole structure and you feel it when you play," he said. "The sound just comes back to you."

PepsiCo cuts ties with Lil Wayne over crude lyrics

NEW YORK (AP)—PepsiCo is bowing to public pressure for the second time in a week and cutting ties with Lil Wayne over the rapper's crude lyrical reference to civil rights martyr Emmett Till.

Lil Wayne, one of the biggest stars in pop music, had a deal to promote the company's Mountain Dew soda.

Earlier this week, PepsiCo also pulled an online ad for the neon-colored soda that was criticized for portraying racial stereotypes and making light of violence toward women. That ad was developed by rapper Tyler, the Creator.

On Friday, PepsiCo said in a statement that Wayne's "offensive reference to a revered civil rights icon does not reflect the values of our brand." It declined to provide any further comment.

A publicist for Lil Wayne, Sarah Cunningham, said that the split was due to "creative differences" and that it was an amicable parting.

"That's about all I can tell you at this time," she said.

Wayne had sent the Till family a letter offering empathy and saying that he would not reference Till or the family in his music, particularly in an inappropriate manner.

But the Till family said the letter fell short of an apology.

"It's mindboggling to me that they partnered with him in the first place," said the Rev. Wheeler Parker Jr., a Till cousin and witness to his abduction. "Major corporations should scrutinize who they endorse, don't let greed or money determine who you sponsor."

Parker's written statement said Wayne's lyrics not only insulted Till's memory but degraded women as well.

Rev. Al Sharpton, who had been working with the Till family to arrange a meeting with Lil Wayne and PepsiCo officials, said in a telephone interview that he hopes the decision ultimately is less about punishing individual rappers and more a cultural "teaching moment."

"Otherwise we're just waiting on the next train crash instead of trying to really resolve our problem and learn from these experiences and set a tone in the country that's healthy for everybody," he said.

Sharpton said that he and the Till family still plan to meet with PepsiCo officials next week.

The controversy erupted after Wayne made the reference to Till on Future's song "Karate Chop" earlier this year. He refers to a violent sexual act on a woman and says he wants to do as much damage as was done to Till.

AP

In this Feb. 1, 2013 file photo, recording artist Lil Wayne meets fans and celebrates his contemporary street wear apparel brand TRUKFIT at his hometown Macy's, in New Orleans.

The black teen from Chicago was in Mississippi visiting family in 1955 when he was killed, allegedly for whistling at a white woman. He was beaten, had his eyes gouged out and was shot in the head before his assailants tied a cotton gin fan to his body with barbed wire and tossed it into a river.

Two white men, including the woman's husband, were acquitted by an all-white jury.

Till's body was recovered and returned to Chicago where his mother, Mamie Till, insisted on having an open casket at his funeral. The pictures of his battered body helped push civil rights into the cultural conversation.

Music and media industry executive Paul Porter, who comments on music issues on his website RapRehab.com, said he thought PepsiCo's decision was an effort by the company "to do the right thing now."

Porter, who had complained publicly and to PepsiCo about Lil Wayne and the Mountain Dew video by Tyler, the Creator, said the company is "doing a whole evaluation of the process" involving its commercials and musicians. His comments were based on his conversations with the company.

"I commend them for making this strong judgment," he said. "Lil Wayne's apology was not an apology."

Earlier this month, Rick Ross also lost his deal with Reebok after he rapped about raping a woman who had been drugged. As for the Mountain Dew ad by Tyler, the Creator, PepsiCo said it pulled the spot immediately after learning people found it offensive.

The ad portrayed a battered white woman being urged to identify her attacker from a lineup of black men and a talking goat that has appeared in other Mountain Dew ads. Tyler, the Creator has noted that the men in the lineup were played by his friends and members of Odd Future, a Los Angeles-based rap collective.

Kobe Bryant battles mom, business over auction

TRENTON, New Jersey (AP)—Kobe Bryant is in a court battle to try to keep his mother from auctioning off mementoes from his high school days in Pennsylvania and his early years with the Los Angeles Lakers.

A New Jersey auction house filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court on Thursday for the right to sell the stuff after the National Basketball Association star's lawyers wrote the firm telling it to cancel a planned June auction.

The disagreement is a high-value, high-profile version of a question many families face: Can Mom get rid of the stuff a grown child left at home?

In this case, the 900 mementoes happen to be worth upward of $1.5 million.

Among the first 100 or so items Pamela Bryant intends to sell: the NBA star's jerseys, practice gear and sweatsuits from Lower Merion High School; varsity letters; a trophy for being the outstanding player at the 1995 Adidas ABCD basketball camp; and a signed basketball from the 2000 NBA championship game.

And then there are rings, for the 1996 Pennsylvania high school championship, a pair that the Lakers made for Bryant's parents for the 2000 NBA championship and one from the 1998 NBA All-Star game.

According to court filings, Pamela Bryant struck a deal in January with Goldin Auctions in Berlin, New Jersey, which earlier this year sold a rare Honus Wagner baseball card for a record $2.1 million.

She got $450,000 up front, which she intended to use for a new home in Nevada.

In its court filings, Goldin says Pamela Bryant told the auction house that she asked her son five years ago what he wanted to do with the items that were in her home.

"Kobe Bryant indicated to Pamela Bryant that the items belonged to her and that he had no interest in them," the auction house's attorneys wrote. So she put them in a $1,500-per-month New Jersey storage unit.

The challenge came Tuesday when Goldin sent a news release announcing the auction. By day's end, Kobe Bryant's lawyer had sent a cease-and-desist letter telling the auction house to call off the sale and return the items to him.

Kenneth Goldin, owner of the auction house, says he can't cancel the auction because he's already advanced $450,000 to Bryant's mother and put money into advertising the auction.

Kobe Bryant's lawyer Mark Campbell said in a statement, "Mr. Bryant's personal property has ended up in the possession of someone who does not lawfully own it. We look forward to resolving this legal matter through the legal system."

Bryant has had a sometimes icy relationship with his mother and father, Joe "Jellybean" Bryant, a former pro basketball player who is now coaching in Thailand.

AP

This image provided by Goldin Auctions on Friday, May 3, 2013, shows an advertisement for an auction of items from Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant.

Will Downey suit up again after $175M 'IM3' haul?

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Iron Man reigns as the standard-bearer of Hollywood superheroes with a $175.3 million domestic opening weekend for his latest sequel and an overseas haul of a half-billion dollars in less than two weeks.

According to studio estimates Sunday, "Iron Man 3" has raced to a worldwide total of $680.1 million. That includes $175.9 million in its second weekend overseas, where the film has rung up $504.8 million so far.

No other solo superhero—not even Batman or Spider-Man—has managed this kind of business.

Yet the future of Marvel Studios' flagship franchise is in the hands of a mortal man with no metal armor, gadgets or special powers, other than his ability to rebound from Hollywood pariah to hottest star on the planet.

"Iron Man 3" hints that Robert Downey Jr.'s Tony Stark might hang up his high-tech suits and live a normal life from now on. As the centerpiece behind not only the "Iron Man" films but also Marvel's superhero ensemble "The Avengers," Downey seems crucial to this comic-book world.

Could Disney's Marvel Studios conjure anywhere near the same magic if it relaunched "Iron Man" with another actor? Without Downey, would the upcoming "Avengers" sequel have quite the same appeal as last year's record-grossing first installment?

"Your guess is as good as mine," said Dave Hollis, head of distribution for Disney. "Marvel has found a way to tell interesting stories with a variety of characters over time, and it will continue to do so."

"Iron Man 3" had the second-biggest domestic debut ever, behind the $207.4 million start over the same weekend last year for "The Avengers," which teamed Downey's Stark with other Marvel Comics heroes. The new sequel surpassed the $169.2 million opening for 2011's "Harry Potter" finale, the previous second-place debut.

In just nine days, the film shot past the $312 million international total for "Iron Man 2" in its entire theatrical run.

Among the overseas totals so far: $63.5 million in China, $42.6 million in South Korea, $38.3 million in Great Britain and $35.8 million in Mexico.

Domestically, "Iron Man 3" has far outpaced the franchise's first two movies. "Iron Man" launched the series with a $98.6 million domestic debut in 2008, while 2010's "Iron Man 2" opened with $128.1 million.

1. "**Iron Man 3**," $175.3 million *($175.9 million international)*.
2. "**Pain & Gain**," $7.6 million.
3. "**42**," $6.2 million.
4. "**Oblivion**," $5.8 million *($6.5 million international)*.
5. "**The Croods**," $4.2 million *($17.4 million international)*.
6. "**The Big Wedding**," $3.9 million *($2.5 million international)*.
7. "**Mud**," $2.2 million.
8. "**Oz the Great and Powerful**," $1.8 million.
9. "**Scary Movie 5**," $1.4 million *($4 million international)*.
10. "**The Place Beyond the Pines**," $1.3 million.

The film also opened higher than last year's Batman finale "The Dark Knight Rises" ($160.9 million) and the biggest of the Spider-Man movies ($151.1 million for "Spider-Man 3").

If Downey doesn't sign on for more, it would leave a gaping hole in the expanding superhero universe Marvel is taking to the big-screen.

"I honestly don't know how you can go on with that character without Downey," said Paul Dergarabedian, an analyst with box-office tracker Hollywood.com. "I think he's as important to this franchise and to Marvel as any actor is to any character."

Downey seems just as vital to "The Avengers." That ensemble probably could thrive without him, given how the first film and previous solo superhero adventures have established a team that includes Chris Hemsworth's Thor, Chris Evans' Captain America, Scarlett Johansson's Black Widow and Mark Ruffalo's Hulk.

But without Downey, Marvel might have to settle for something less than the colossal $1.5 billion worldwide results for "The Avengers."

"He's the spark that ignites all those characters, it seems," Dergarabedian said. "He's the lead guitarist, and they're just all kind of following him."

Before convincing reluctant Marvel executives that he was the man to put on the metal suit, Downey still was trying to live down drug addiction and jail time in his 20s and 30s that nearly ruined his career.

The success of "Iron Man" led to another blockbuster franchise in "Sherlock Holmes," and Downey's professional choices now look limitless.

In an interview before the release of "Iron Man 3," Downey said that "Avengers" director Joss Whedon had been editing a first cut of that film and told him the movie didn't really start until Stark and girlfriend Pepper Potts (Gwyneth Paltrow) appeared together on screen.

Downey said that was a testament to the groundwork laid years earlier in "Iron Man," which "when we were shooting it, this kind of became the heart of several franchises."

"So you know we're having a nice time," Downey said, sidestepping comment on whether he might return for more "Iron Man" and "Avengers" sequels.

"Iron Man 3" did four times the domestic business of every other movie out there; the combined total of all other releases was $43.7 million, according to Hollywood.com.

While it was a huge weekend for Marvel and Disney, the overall industry continued to slump, thanks to the record start for "The Avengers" over the same weekend a year ago. Domestic revenues this weekend totaled $219 million, down 15 percent from the $258.1 million during that "Avengers" weekend last year.

Hollywood's domestic revenue this year is at $3.14 billion, off 11 percent from 2012's pace, according to Hollywood.com.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

AP

This undated publicity photo released by Marvel shows Robert Downey Jr. as Tony Stark/Iron Man in a scene from Marvel's "Iron Man 3."

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THE CROODS [CC] (PG)
Fri.(410 PM) 710 PM 945 PM
Sat.(110 410) 710 945
Sun.(110 PM 410 PM) 710 PM
Mon.(410 PM) 710 PM

IRON MAN 3 [CC] (PG-13)
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Sun. - Mon.(425 PM)

IRON MAN 3 3D [CC] (PG-13)
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Mon.(400 PM) 700 PM 715 PM

PAIN AND GAIN (R)
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Mon.(405 PM) 705 PM

OBLIVION [CC] (PG-13)
Fri.(420 PM) 720 PM 950 PM
Sat.(120 420) 720 950
Sun.(120 PM 420 PM) 720 PM
Mon.(420 PM) 720 PM

JURASSIC PARK 3D (PG-13)
Fri.(430 PM) 730 PM 1005 PM
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Mon.(430 PM) 730 PM

GI JOE: RETALIATION [CC] (PG-13)
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GI JOE: RETALIATION 3D (PG-13)
Fri. - Sat.(415 PM) 1015 PM
Sun. - Mon.(415 PM)

www.REGmovies.com

AP

British actress Keira Knightley poses as she arrives for the world premiere of Anna Karenina in London, in this file photo dated Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012.

Keira Knightley weds rocker James Righton

PARIS (AP)—A French mayor says Oscar-nominated actress Keira Knightley has said "oui" to rocker James Righton in a small wedding ceremony in southern France.

Aime Navello said Sunday the couple followed French tradition when he married them at the Mazan town hall on Saturday. Navello read the service in French and the couple responded in French and English. He said about 10 people were present.

Righton is keyboard player for the rock group Klaxons. He and Knightley got engaged a year ago.

Knightley first won notice for her role as a soccer-playing teenager in "Bend It Like Beckham."

She went on to star in the first three "Pirates of the Caribbean" movies and was nominated for an Oscar for playing Elizabeth Bennet in an adaptation of Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice."

Aerosmith drops Indonesia show over security fears

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Aerosmith canceled a show in Indonesia after authorities there said they had foiled a bomb plot targeting the Myanmar Embassy.

Concert promoter Ismaya Live cited safety concerns as the reason for the cancellation, but it wasn't clear if there was a direct connection to the alleged embassy plot.

The American rockers were scheduled to perform this coming Saturday for a nearly sold-out crowd of 15,000 in the capital, Jakarta, said Helmi Sugara, event organizer spokesman.

The statement about the cancellation carried an apology from Aerosmith also saying they hoped to make it up to the fans one day. There was no immediate indication they would reschedule.

Indonesian police said Friday they had arrested two suspected militants and seized bombs the suspects were plotting to use against the Myanmar Embassy in Jakarta to protest Myanmar's treatment of Muslims.

Aerosmith started an Asia-Pacific tour in April with their first-ever concert in New Zealand and several shows in Australia. They're scheduled to play Wednesday in the Philippines.

Western music acts are popular in Indonesia, but Islamic hard-liners have forced changes or cancellations in the past.

Lady Gaga canceled what was to be the biggest performance on her "Born This Way Ball" tour in Asia last year. Hard-liners had threatened violence if the concert was held because they saw the pop diva as a corrupting influence.

Jennifer Lopez, who judged "American Idol" alongside Aerosmith's Steven Tyler for two seasons, toned down her costumes and dance moves during an Indonesian concert in late November.

'Mockingbird' author Lee sues over copyright in NY

NEW YORK (AP)—Harper Lee, who wrote the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel "To Kill a Mockingbird," filed a lawsuit Friday to re-secure the copyright to it.

The lawsuit filed in federal court in Manhattan seeks unspecified damages from the son-in-law of Lee's former literary agent and companies he allegedly created.

The lawsuit alleges the son-in-law, Samuel Pinkus, failed to properly protect the copyright of the book after his father-in-law, Eugene Winick—who had represented Lee as a literary agent since the book was published in 1960 through the firm McIntosh and Otis—became ill a decade ago. The 87-year-old author alleges Pinkus took advantage of her declining hearing and eyesight seven years ago to get her to assign the book's copyright to him and a company he controlled.

Lee, who lives in Monroeville, Alabama, has taken legal action to get the copyright reassigned but alleges Pinkus still received commissions.

"The transfer of ownership of an author's copyright to her agent is incompatible with her agent's duty of loyalty; it is a gross example of self-dealing," the lawsuit says.

The former agent's son-in-law didn't immediately return a call seeking comment.

"To Kill a Mockingbird" won the Pulitzer for fiction and is widely assigned in schools. The film version won three Academy Awards.

Sheen supports sons' removal from ex-wife's care

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Charlie Sheen supports a decision by child protective services to remove his twin sons from the custody of his ex-wife and have them live temporarily with another of his exes, actress Denise Richards, his spokesman said Friday.

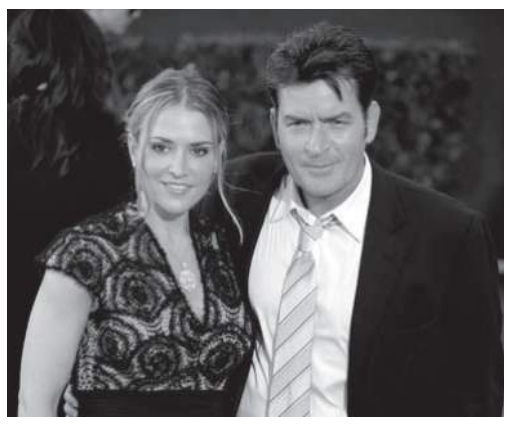
Larry Solters wrote in a statement that Sheen will participate in court proceedings related to ex-wife Brooke Mueller's custody of their 4-year-old sons. Mueller and Sheen were married in 2008 and divorced in 2011.

"He knows Max and Bob are safe and in a stable, loving environment with Denise and the boys' sisters," Solters wrote. "Charlie will fully cooperate and fully participate in all proceedings."

Celebrity website RadarOnline.com reported Friday that the twins were removed from Mueller's custody by the Department of Children and Family Services.

Mueller has struggled with addiction for years, but it remains unclear what prompted officials to remove her sons from her care. The agency's investigations are confidential, and Mueller and Richards' representatives have declined to comment.

Sheen and Richards have two daughters from their marriage, which ended in 2006.



AP

In this Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009 photo, actor Charlie Sheen, right, and wife Brooke Mueller arrive at the 61st Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

HK director Wong Kar-wai gets top French honor

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong film director Wong Kar-wai has been given France's highest cultural honor. Wong was named a Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters by French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius on Sunday. Fabius bestowed the medal on Wong in a ceremony at the French consul-general's official residence in the southern Chinese city. The filmmaker said the award is "in a way, a tribute to Hong Kong cinema," and that France is cinema's "spirit home." Fabius said French artist Jean Cocteau might have called Wong Kar-wai "the calligrapher of light." Wong's movies include "Chungking Express" and "In The Mood For Love." His most recent film, "The Grandmaster," was released this year. It recounts the life story of Chinese martial arts legend Ip Man, famous for having trained Bruce Lee.

E! Online's Twitter, texting accounts hacked

LOS ANGELES (AP)—E! Online says hackers compromised its Twitter and text messaging accounts, sending out erroneous news alerts about Justin Bieber and Angelina Jolie. The Syrian Electronic Army claimed responsibility for Saturday's hack. E! Online said it was working with Twitter to correct the issue, and that an investigation into the attack was underway. The SEA has taken credit for a string of Web attacks on media targets it sees as sympathetic to Syria's rebels, including the BBC, Al-Jazeera English and the Guardian. The group claims to have hacked the Twitter feed of The Associated Press last month.

Rule lets Oscar voters watch DVDs for some votes

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Oscar voters will no longer be required to see certain nominated films in a theater to cast their ballots. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced Saturday that members will be mailed DVDs of documentaries, shorts and foreign language nominees—categories that don't typically get lengthy stays on multiplex big screens. President Hawk Koch says the move is an effort to expand member participation by giving voters as many opportunities as possible to see all the nominated films. Prior to the final round of voting, the academy will mail members DVDs of films in the Foreign Language Film, Documentary Feature, Documentary Short Subject, Animated Short Film and Live Action Short Film categories. The nomination process remains unchanged.

Hopeful lottery winners want to share fortune with spouse

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm responding to your request for comments about the letter from "Happily Single" (Feb. 13) and whether a divorce would be the first course of action upon winning the lottery. In a community-property state, a divorce AFTER winning wouldn't legally protect you from having to share the spoils with your soon-to-be (and probably now bitter) ex-spouse.

My husband and I have talked at length about what we'd do if either of us won the Powerball jackpots, and no, divorce was NOT on the list. We'd start by consulting a lawyer/financial planner to find a way to protect our privacy before claiming the money.

I suspect the comments from "Happily's" co-workers are evidence that unhappily marrieds group together—or enjoy complaining about their spouses. Either way, it's sad. Studies show that complaining about a spouse significantly decreases one's satisfaction in a relationship. While we all "vent" from time to time, if talking divorce is your first response to a jackpot win, then you're in the wrong relationship.

IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL

DEAR IN IT: I hit the jackpot with the huge response I received about that letter. And the majority of readers said they would NOT divorce:

DEAR ABBY: I am a lottery winner, and I feel blessed and proud that I can take care of my wife the way she deserves. Within two minutes of my win I was on the phone with her, telling her to quit her stressful job. We now have a wonderful life, with more than we ever hoped for.

SATISFIED IN THE SUNSHINE STATE

DEAR ABBY: I'm single, but that letter didn't surprise me. I think a lot of people feel they must be married by a certain age, so they end up "settling." Read some of the crazy lottery winner stories posted online, and you'll see people trade in their spouses because they feel they can do better or "move up," kind of like buying a bigger, better house. I'm not saying it's right, but it happens.

CINDY IN ARLINGTON, VA.

DEAR ABBY: If I won the lottery, the first thing I'd do is GET married. We're waiting so we can afford the nice wedding we both want.

STEPHANIE IN SAUGUS, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: The first thing I'd do if I won is pay off all my debts. I'm ALREADY divorced.

DIANA IN TEXAS CITY, TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: I wouldn't consider getting divorced if I won, but I might finally buy that second husband I've been wanting but can't afford.

TACOMA READER

DEAR ABBY: I've been married for 40 years. If I won I would not divorce. There's NO WAY I'd want to give him half the money. I would stay married so I could have control over the money he spent. It would make up for all the years that he would pinch my pennies and make me squeeze a nickel till the buffalo pooped.

WISHFUL IN OHIO

DEAR ABBY: If I were to win the lottery, I would trade all of it just to have one more hug and one more night talking with my wife, who died 16 years ago. Our children were young when she died, and I have tried my best to raise them to be good adults. But my heart still aches over losing her to cancer. I believe all widows and widowers would agree with me on this.

TRENT IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR ABBY: "When" we win, my husband and I plan on going into a self-made "witness protection program" to hide from the long-lost relatives. But we will absolutely do it TOGETHER.

HOPING IN GEORGIA

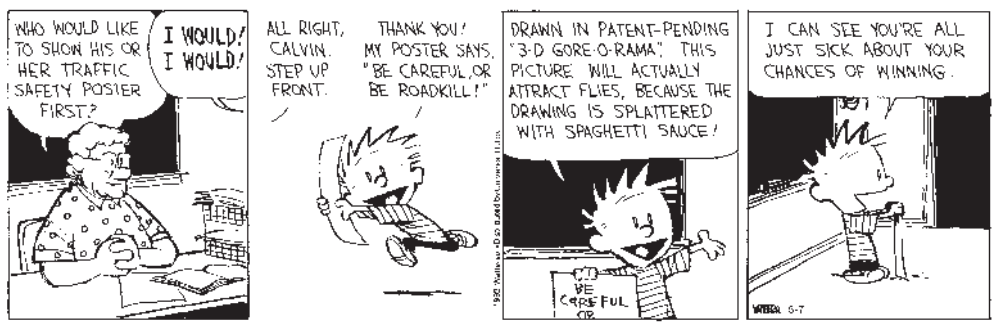
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

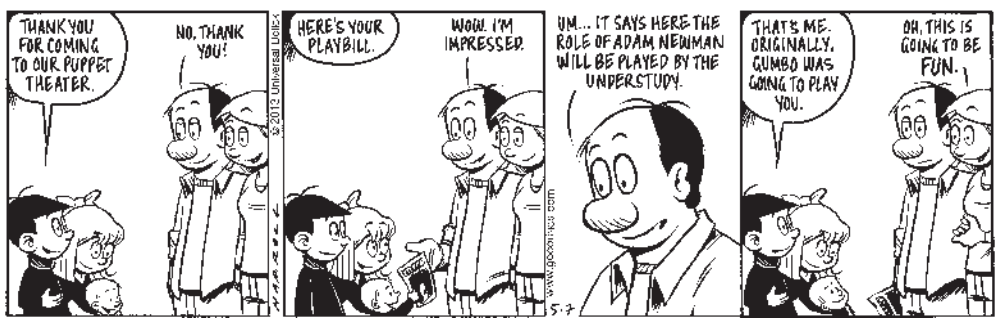

WHO WOULD LIKE TO SHOW HIS OR HER TRAFFIC SAFETY POSTER FIRST?
I WOULD! I WOULD!
ALL RIGHT, CALVIN. STEP UP FRONT.
THANK YOU! MY POSTER SAYS, "BE CAREFUL, OR BE ROADKILL!"
DRAWN IN PATENT-PENDING "3-D GORE-O-RAMA", THIS PICTURE WILL ACTUALLY ATTRACT FLIES, BECAUSE THE DRAWING IS SPLATTERED WITH SPAGHETTI SAUCE!
BE CAREFUL OR
I CAN SEE YOU'RE ALL JUST SICK ABOUT YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THANK YOU FOR COMING TO OUR PUPPET THEATER.
NO, THANK YOU!
HERE'S YOUR PLAYBILL.
WOW. I'M IMPRESSED.
UM... IT SAYS HERE THE ROLE OF ADAM NEWMAN WILL BE PLAYED BY THE UNDERSTUDY.
THAT'S ME. ORIGINALLY, GUMBO WAS GOING TO PLAY YOU.
OH, THIS IS GOING TO BE FUN.
© 2013 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com
5-7

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, GINA?
THIS GIRL ON MY FITNESS SHOW JUST DID FIFTY SIT-UPS. I'M TRYING TO MATCH HER.
THAT GUY ON "MAN VS. FOOD" JUST ATE FIFTY DING DONGS.
OH, IT IS ON!
©GlennMcCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Docket entry
5 Heidi's range
9 One's years
12 Greatly
13 Inquisitive
14 Present
15 Madison's place
17 Exist
18 Ardor
19 Cuts into cubes
21 Extra
24 Rover's friend
25 Difficult
26 Hawk trainer
30 Carte lead-in
31 Eliot's Marner
32 Rotation duration
33 Outwardly curved on both sides
35 Bouquet holder
36 Reed instrument
37 Essential points
38 Prenatal test, for short
40 — morgana
42 Island neckwear
43 Grayish metallic element
48 A Gershwin
49 Author Hunter
50 Medicinal amount
51 X rating?
52 Force measure
53 Unseen hitch

DOWN
1 Crow's call
2 Clay, now
3 "Help!"
4 Left an impression
5 Actress Paquin
6 Missing
7 Omega preceder
8 Municipal magistrates
9 Huge snakes
10 Bush opponent
11 Rams fans?
16 U.K. ref. bk.
20 Altar affirmative
21 Moby-Dick's pursuer
22 "The Persistence of Memory" painter
23 Severe
24 Linen source
26 Basketball team
27 Brewery product
28 Right on the map?
29 Deli loaves
31 Took a nap
34 Japanese sash
35 Food
37 Classic muscle car
38 Settled down
39 Unembellished
40 Drescher or Lebowitz
41 Zits
44 Poison —
45 Charged bit
46 Portion of N.A.
47 "Family Guy" daughter

Solution time: 21 mins.

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P	R	F	S	S	B	O	X	■	F	L	A	N
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■	■	■	A	D	D	■	E	B	O	O	K	S
B	A	S	T	E	■	B	R	I	O	■	■	■
A	X	L	E	■	S	E	N	A	T	O	R	■
R	I	O	■	H	U	L	A	S	■	G	O	D
■	S	E	N	E	G	A	L	■	T	R	A	Y
■	■	■	O	R	G	Y	■	T	H	E	R	E
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A	C	A	I	■	S	E	N	O	R	I	T	A
D	E	M	O	■	I	R	I	U	M	V	I	H
E	D	E	N	■	S	A	P	■	S	Y	N	C

Yesterday's answer 5-7

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11
12				■	13				■	14		
15				16					■	17		
■	■	■	18				■	19	20			
21	22	23			■	■	24				■	■
25				■	26	27					28	29
30			■	31					■	32		
33			34					■	35			
■	■	36				■	■	37				
38	39				■	40	41			■	■	■
42			■	43	44					45	46	47
48			■	49				■	50			
51			■	52				■	53			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alexander Ludwig, 21; Breckin Meyer, 39; Traci Lords, 45; Amy Heckerling, 59

Happy Birthday: Choose your battles wisely. Wasting time fighting a lost cause will hinder your chance to advance. Concentrate on honing your skills and getting along with the people you need in your corner in order to succeed. Broaden your outlook and make room for new beginnings. Greater stability and security are within reach. Self-improvement projects will lead to compliments. Your numbers are 2, 10, 14, 21, 26, 32, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Check out your options and consider your motives. Don't let anyone coerce you into something you don't care to do. Stick to your game plan and rely on past experience when it comes time to make a decision. Make a personal change. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Hone your skills and discuss your plans. Communication will bring you a step closer to your goals. Tighten up your connection with someone who has something to contribute. An unexpected offer must not lead you astray. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't spend what you don't have. An impulsive purchase will lead to financial stress. Pick and choose what you decide to do based on how much it costs. Budgeting now will make your life easier in the future. Protect your assets. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Taking care of younger or older family members will help improve your relationship. Getting involved in causes you believe in will bring you closer to people who share your interests and will also greatly enhance your life. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Move forward with your eyes wide open. Not everyone will be on your side. Prepare to make last-minute adjustments. Don't let anyone take advantage of you. A change of scenery or networking and making new connections will pay off. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You've got what it takes to accomplish whatever you set out to do. Present, promote or just enjoy a moment with someone special. Your ideas will be well received and a partnership will prove beneficial. Put time aside for a little romance. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): If you have to spend money, invest in your talents or your home. Making a residential move or changing the way you live will be beneficial. A creative hobby can bring in extra cash. Find a way to explore new avenues. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You'll be drawn to unusual pastimes. Find out as much as you can about the people you are dealing with. Knowledge will be the key to getting what you want. A new direction will bring all sorts of exciting new opportunities. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Do something exciting. Socializing will result in new friendships and a greater interest in changing the way you live. Express your needs and you will receive a good response. Indecision will stand in the way of a great opportunity. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Spend time with the people you are close to and you will feel good about your life. Don't make unnecessary changes. Security is your best friend, and upsetting what you've worked so hard to obtain must be avoided. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Consider your strong points and find a way to utilize them fully. Job hunting or finding a way to make extra cash using your skills will bring good results. Expanding your friendships or getting involved in a new pastime will lead to prospects. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Elaborate on an idea you have. Share your thoughts with someone you consider to be creative. Collaboration will bring you closer to a goal you've been trying to achieve for some time. There is money to be made. Negotiate and sign contracts. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are determined and prepared. You are intense, protective and practical.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		1	4				2	
			2			8		7
6				5			9	
1	6				2			
		3				9		
			3				7	4
	9			4				5
5		8			6			
	2				7	1		

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	4	1	7	3	8	9	5	6
3	9	5	1	4	6	7	2	8
6	7	8	9	2	5	1	3	4
1	3	6	2	5	9	4	8	7
9	2	4	8	7	1	5	6	3
5	8	7	4	6	3	2	9	1
7	5	3	6	9	4	8	1	2
8	6	2	5	1	7	3	4	9
4	1	9	3	8	2	6	7	5

Difficulty Level ★ 5/06

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DANIEL DAY-LEWIS WINS THIRD OSCAR **Solution: 8 letters**

R	H	N	A	N	O	R	H	L	E	H	S	A	C	G
E	E	U	L	V	S	S	O	R	E	H	T	A	F	N
C	A	B	N	E	I	G	C	M	N	A	M	E	I	I
I	L	H	E	T	I	E	N	R	E	P	D	N	U	H
P	T	C	I	C	I	R	W	A	I	O	E	S	I	S
I	H	R	P	S	C	N	B	N	G	A	N	D	H	I
E	B	O	C	B	T	A	G	A	B	E	T	U	L	F
N	E	L	E	B	L	O	M	A	G	I	C	O	E	L
T	E	I	L	U	J	O	Ⓡ	I	B	L	N	K	L	L
R	L	N	E	T	B	S	Ⓞ	Y	L	D	A	I	I	U
O	B	C	B	C	O	T	Ⓞ	D	O	L	J	C	O	Y
P	A	O	R	H	X	A	Ⓜ	N	B	F	E	N	X	R
H	T	L	I	E	E	R	H	T	O	C	A	R	A	R
Y	O	N	T	R	R	S	B	O	U	N	T	Y	M	E
E	N	M	Y	L	E	F	T	R	A	I	N	I	N	G

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Bars, Blake, Blood, Bounty, Boxer, British, Butcher, Camping, Cashel, Cecil, Celebrity, Father, Fishing, Flute, Foot, Gabriel, Gandhi, Gangs, Gerry, Health, History, Hunting, Jill, Juliet, Leads, Lincoln, London, Magic, Maxo, My Left, Name, Nanou, Nine, Notable, Poet, Rebecca Miller, Recipient, Romeo, Ronan, Room, Stars, Three, Training, Trophy, View

Yesterday's Answer: Stand-up

THE WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 can be ordered by sending check or money order for $5.00 each plus $2.00 postage and handling ($4.00 for U.S. first-class delivery, Canada and foreign $3.00) to Book Orders, Universal Uclick, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. ©2013 Universal Uclick. Distributed commercially and unalterable; may not be reproduced or redistributed without permission. 5/7 (5/6 puzzle)

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Pacers beat Knicks 102-95 in Game 1

NEW YORK (AP)—Bigger, badder, and so far better.

Physical beat finesse Sunday, as the Indiana Pacers outworked and outmuscled the New York Knicks in a 102-95 victory in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

David West scored 20 points and Paul George added 19 for the Pacers, who outrebounded the Knicks 44-30, showing the smaller team that in the rugged East, size does matter.

"I thought guys did a good job just putting them on their heels," West said. "We were attacking, we were aggressive."

D.J. Augustin had 16 points for the Pacers, who built a 16-point lead while Carmelo Anthony was on the bench in foul trouble in the third quarter, and easily held on to spoil the Knicks' first second-round game since 2000.

Anthony finished with 27 points and 11 rebounds, but was frustrated by the Pacers' tough defense and by the referees. He shot 10 of 28 from the field and was perhaps thrown out of sync having to defend West, a natural power forward, inside.

"Right now they're just being really physical with him, they're trying to bang him, they're trying to frustrate him," Knicks point guard Raymond Felton said. "But we're going to be fine, he's going to be fine."

Game 2 is here Tuesday night, and then the series takes a lengthy break before Game 3 on Saturday in Indiana.

The Pacers, who allowed the second-fewest points per game and the lowest field goal percentage in the league during the regular season, mixed in solid offense as well. They outscored New York 59-38 across the middle two quarters and were comfortably ahead throughout the fourth.

"Just a strong defensive effort and then offensively guys played with great poise," Pacers coach Frank Vogel said. "Just a complete team effort, very proud of them."

Roy Hibbert scored 14 points in thoroughly outplaying counterpart Tyson Chandler, and George Hill also had 14 for the Pacers, adding seven rebounds and six assists.

Lance Stephenson added 11 points and 13 rebounds playing in his hometown.

J.R. Smith scored 17 points but was 4 of 15. Felton had 18 and Kenyon Martin added 12 for the Knicks, who hope to have reserves Amare Stoudemire (right knee surgery) and Steve Novak (back spasms) back for Game 3 and certainly looked as if they could use the help.

Both teams wrapped up their first-round series Friday night, the Knicks' victory in Game 6 in Boston giving them their first series victory in 13 years and sending them on to face a familiar postseason foe in Indiana, which ousted Atlanta.

The teams met three straight years from 1993-95, then again from 1998-00, splitting their six series, and this was the type of slugfest so many of those matchups were.

Indiana led 60-54 when Anthony committed his fourth foul and came out of the game with 7:48 remaining in the third quarter. The Pacers then outscored the Knicks 21-11 the remainder of the period, opening an 81-65 bulge on Augustin's 3-pointer with 31.5 seconds left in the quarter.

"They did all the little things," Knicks coach Mike Woodson said. "We didn't start playing until we actually got down and it was desperation and we've got to play like that from the start."

Anthony came back on to start the fourth and scored the first six points to get the Knicks back within 10. He picked up a fifth on a questionable offensive foul call with 10 minutes left and appeared to wave off a substitution when Chandler checked in, though Woodson said Chandler was going in for Martin, who was the one who exited.

But there was no final flurry, and Chandler eventually fouled out with four points and three rebounds.

Anthony wore a sleeve under his jersey covering a strap to keep his sore left shoulder in place. It was first hurt against the Pacers in April, then aggravated when Kevin Garnett pulled on his arm while setting a screen during the first-round series.

That may have contributed to his poor shooting but certainly the Pacers had plenty to do with it, as did having to bang inside with the bigger West—though Anthony downplayed the toughness factor.

James wins MVP, 1 vote shy of unanimously

MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James was at his best this season, and the voters tasked with selecting the NBA's Most Valuable Player took notice.

Every voter except one, that is.

The NBA still does not have a unanimous MVP, though no one has come closer than James did this season. The Miami Heat star was presented with the Maurice Podoloff Trophy for the fourth time in his career on Sunday after collecting 120 of the 121 first-place votes, with Carmelo Anthony of the New York Knicks picking up the lone remaining top choice.

"It was probably a writer out of New York that didn't give me that vote," James said. "And we know the history between the Heat and the Knicks, so I get it."

A panel of 120 sports writers and broadcasters cast ballots in the NBA MVP voting, with a combined online fan vote also being taken into account.

Shaquille O'Neal got every first-place vote but one in the 1999-2000 season, when one person cast his ballot for Allen Iverson—who finished seventh that year. This season, Kevin Durant of the Oklahoma City Thunder finished second, well ahead of Anthony, who was third and didn't even appear on nine of the ballots cast. James was the only player listed on all 121 ballots; Durant was omitted from two, according to the results released by the NBA.

"I'll take that vote," Anthony said, adding that James was a deserving winner.

For months, there really had only been two questions about this season's MVP race: When will James get the award, and would the results be unanimous? The first of those answers became known Friday, the other on Sunday, and even as he was on the dais to pick up the award the now-four-time MVP quickly started steering all of his attention back to the goal of helping the Heat win a second straight title.

Miami hosts Chicago in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals on Monday night, when NBA Commissioner David Stern will present James with the trophy, largely just for the benefit of giving Heat fans a pregame reason to cheer.

"My ultimate goal is to win an NBA championship," James said. "That's what I was brought here for. That's why I signed here as a free agent in 2010. It wasn't to win MVP trophies. It was to win a championship—and win multiple championships—and that's still my No. 1 priority."

James averaged 26.8 points, 8.0 rebounds and 7.3 assists this season, leading Miami to a league-best 66-16 record while shooting a career-high 56 percent. Only Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (six), Michael Jordan (five), Bill Russell (five) and Wilt Chamberlain (four) have as many MVP awards, only Russell won four in a five-year span, and only Abdul-Jabbar went back-to-back twice, like James did with trophies in 2009 and 2010 and now again in 2012 and 2013.

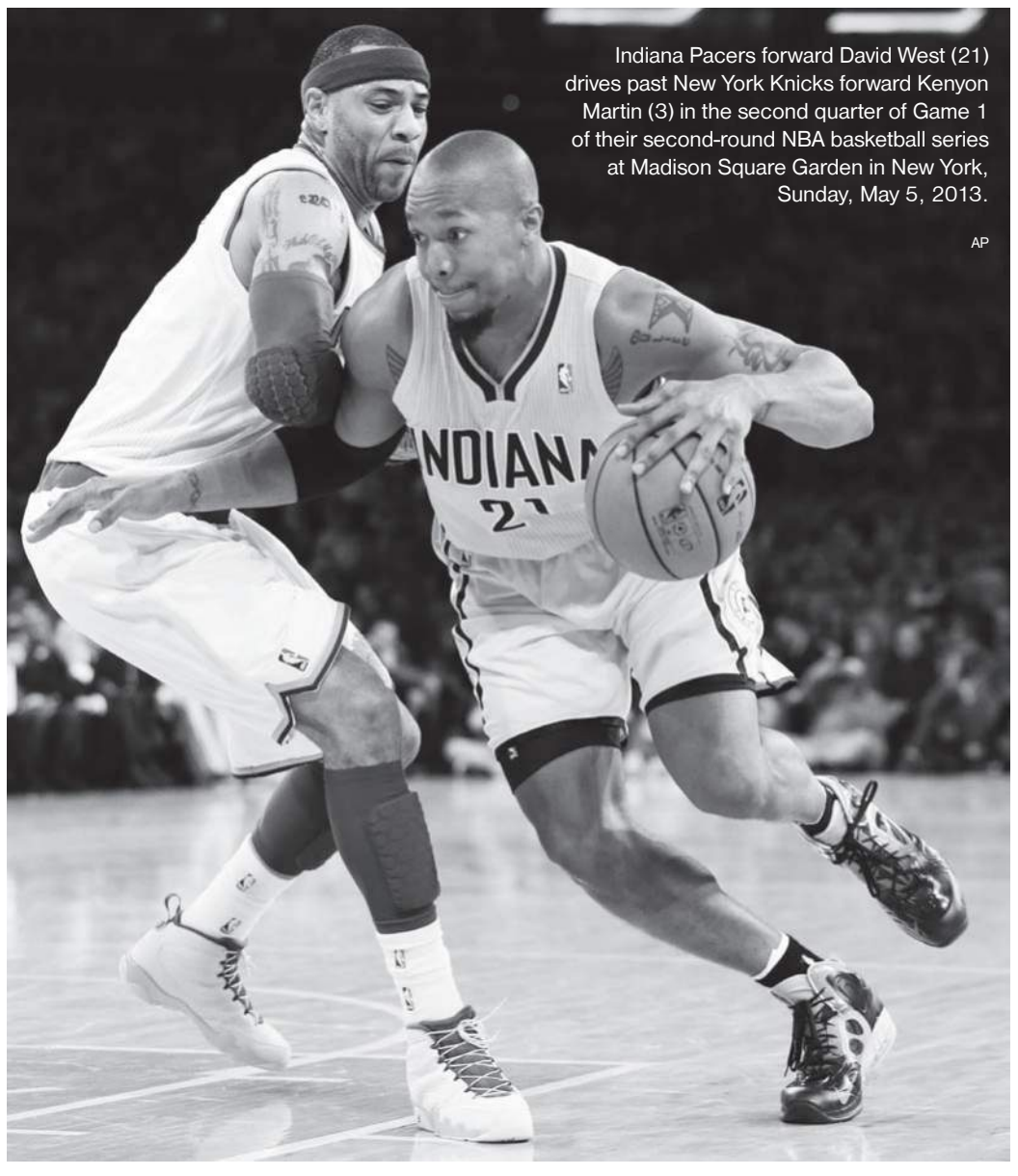
Sunday's ceremony was filled with tributes and even some laughs, like when James' younger son Bryce posed for photographers on stage while his father was speaking and older brother LeBron Jr. looked on—and when James' fiancee, Savannah Brinson, appeared on a congratulatory video and called him "Honeybunny."

"I know you're embarrassed when I call you that," Brinson said. "But whatever."

Over on the far side of the dais, set up on the floor of the Heat home court, James' teammates roared in hysterics—and Udonis Haslem made sure James knew that they were talking about Brinson's pet name for her future husband. The 14 other Heat players were dressed casually in team garb, while James donned a dapper suit for the festivities.

As he did on Saturday, a day after it became widely known that the award would be his again, James thanked his teammates.

"I'd rather be sitting over there in shorts and a T-shirt, wondering what the hell they're joking about, because I want to be a part of that joke," James said. "And I hate being out of all the jokes. I want to know what was happening, OK, guys? I would much rather be with my guys over there because that's what it's all about. Without those guys, this trophy is not possible."



Indiana Pacers forward David West (21) drives past New York Knicks forward Kenyon Martin (3) in the second quarter of Game 1 of their second-round NBA basketball series at Madison Square Garden in New York, Sunday, May 5, 2013.

AP

Thunder 93, Grizzlies 91

In Oklahoma City, Derek Fisher turned a tough situation for the Oklahoma City Thunder into the worst-case scenario for the Grizzlies.

With the Thunder down by one in the final minute, Fisher poked the ball away from Memphis' Mike Conley, springing three-time NBA scoring champion Kevin Durant into the open court with a chance to put Oklahoma City on top.

Durant pulled up and connected on a jumper with 11.1 seconds left for the last of his 35 points, lifting the Thunder to a 93-91 victory over the Grizzlies on Sunday in Game 1 of the Western Conference semifinals.

"I just wanted to get up the floor as quick as possible and find a shot," said Durant, who finished second in league MVP voting announced Sunday. "That was the only shot I could find and, by the grace of God, it went in."

Game 2 is Tuesday night in Oklahoma City.

Thabo Sefolosha kept the Grizzlies from going back ahead, deflecting a pass that Conley was able to corral—but only after diving out of bounds. Reggie Jackson then hit a pair of free throws for a three-point lead, and Quincy Pondexter couldn't force overtime after getting fouled while attempting a 3-pointer with 1.6 seconds left.

Pondexter, a 72 percent career free-throw shooter, missed the first free throw. He made his second attempt before intentionally missing the third, but Durant swatted the rebound away and Marc Gasol's attempt at a buzzer-beater was late.

"We couldn't get stops. That's why we lost," said Gasol, who had 20 points and 10 rebounds. "We didn't lose because of free throws."

Kevin Martin scored 25 for Oklahoma City, which trailed for much of the game but was able to avoid repeating its Game 1 loss from when these two teams met in the West semifinals two years ago. The Thunder were able to rally and win that series in seven.

Fisher, a five-time NBA champion who only joined the Thunder after asking to be released by Dallas for family reasons earlier in the season, turned this game around with his defense.

Conley had gotten past him on a drive to the basket when Fisher reached in from behind and knocked the ball free. It was just the stop Oklahoma City needed.

"He makes plays, whether it's tipping the ball out and getting a steal or hitting the big shot to start the fourth," Durant said. "Or just his leadership in the huddles and the locker room is big for us. We need that."

Zach Randolph chipped in 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Grizzlies, and Pondexter and Conley scored 13 apiece. As a team, Memphis went 14 for 24 on free throws. Oklahoma City, which was the league's top foul shooting team with the third-best mark in NBA history, was 22 of 25.

"Obviously, we have to make free throws, especially myself," said Pondexter, who was slapped on his right arm by Jackson on his attempt at the tying 3-pointer. "We've just got to take this as a learning experience and move on."

Darvish, Beltre and Rangers finish sweep of Boston

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Yu Darvish struck out 14 batters and Adrian Beltre hit an RBI single with two outs in the ninth inning as the Texas Rangers beat Boston 4-3 Sunday, completing a three-game sweep and matching the Red Sox for the best record in the majors.

The Rangers, Red Sox and St. Louis all have 20-11 marks.

Beltre lined a hit to right-center off Clayton Mortensen (0-2) that sent home Elvis Andrus, who reached on a two-out single and moved up on a wild pitch. Boston then intentionally walked Lance Berkman.

Darvish matched a career high for strikeouts and left after throwing a career-high 127 pitches in seven innings. Joe Nathan (1-0) worked around a walk and a hit in the ninth.

While Darvish had 14 strikeouts for the second time this season, the right-hander from Japan allowed multiple homers in a game for only the second time in 36 starts for the Rangers. David Ortiz and David Ross connected in the first two innings.

Darvish leads the majors with 72 strikeouts.

Mitch Moreland and Nelson Cruz homered off Red Sox starter Jon Lester.

AP

Texas Rangers' Leonys Martin, right, is tagged out trying to steal second base against Boston Red Sox shortstop Stephen Drew during the third inning of a baseball game Saturday, May 4, 2013, in Arlington, Texas.

Tigers 9, Astros 0

In Houston, Justin Verlander held Houston hitless until the seventh inning and Detroit romped to a four-game sweep.

Verlander, who has already pitched two no-hitters in his career, made a bid for another one against the overmatched Astros in their sixth straight loss.

Carlos Pena got Houston's first hit, a single with one out in the seventh. Carlos Corporan followed with a single.

Verlander (4-2) struck out nine and left after the seventh. The 2011 AL MVP and Cy Award Young winner has a 1.55 ERA this season.

Prince Fielder homered and drove in four runs. Andy Dirks had four hits, including a home run. Brayan Pena and Omar Infante also went deep.

Detroit has won nine of its last 10 and swept a four-game road series for the first time since taking four at Kansas City in May 2006. Houston, which has the worst record in the majors, has lost 10 of 11. Philip Humber (0-7) gave up eight runs in four innings.

Athletics 5, Yankees 4

In New York, Josh Donaldson hit Oakland's third home run of the game, a tiebreaking drive off Boone Logan in the eighth inning that lifted the Athletics over New York.

Luke Montz and Yoenis Cespedes homered as Oakland took a 4-1 lead against Andy Pettitte, who struggled for the second straight start, but the Yankees rallied in the sixth against reliever Jerry Blevins.

Preston Claiborne followed Pettitte and retired six straight batters in his major league debut. Donaldson homered into the left-field second deck with one out in the eighth against Logan (2-2).

Sean Doolittle (2-0) pitched a perfect seventh and Ryan Cook got out of a jam in the eighth. Grant Balfour struck out Vernon Wells with two on to convert his 23rd consecutive save chance dating to May 5 last year.

Eduardo Nunez, the Yankees' starting shortstop with Derek Jeter injured, left after four innings because of tightness in his left ribcage and was sent for an MRI.

Orioles 8, Angels 4

In Anaheim, California, J.J. Hardy and Manny Machado each hit a two-run homer off Jerome Williams in his first start of the season, leading Baltimore over the reeling Los Angeles Angels.

Jason Hammel (5-1) allowed four runs and nine hits through six innings. The right-hander came in 0-3 with a 7.31 ERA in three previous starts against the Angels.

Mike Trout homered for the Angels, whose 11-20 start has matched the worst in franchise history. They have lost seven of nine and are a season-worst nine games behind first-place Texas in the AL West despite the offseason addition of 2010 AL MVP Josh Hamilton. Their only victory in this four-game series came Friday night.

Darren O'Day retired Trout with two runners in scoring position in the eighth and finished up for his first save since Sept. 8, 2009, with Texas.

Williams (1-1) threw 93 pitches in 4 1-3 innings, giving up five runs and four hits.

Twins 4, Indians 2

In Cleveland, Mike Pelfrey pitched six effective innings, Trevor Plouffe hit a two-run homer and Minnesota stopped Cleveland's six-game winning streak.

Justin Morneau drove in a run with a bases-loaded single in the sixth while Joe Mauer, who was in a 5-for-43 slump, added an RBI double in the seventh for his 1,300th career hit.

Pelfrey (3-3) slowed down an Indians lineup that produced 53 runs during the winning streak. The right-hander gave up one run and four hits while striking out seven in his longest outing of the season.

Plouffe homered to left off Corey Kluber (2-1) in the second, his fourth of the season and second in the series. Glen Perkins pitched the ninth for his seventh save in seven chances.

Carlos Santana homered with two outs before Ryan Raburn blooped a single. Perkins struck out pinch-hitter Mike Aviles to end it.

Blue Jays 10, Mariners 2

In Toronto, Mark DeRosa hit a three-run homer, Melky Cabrera added a solo shot and Toronto snapped a four-game skid by beating Seattle.

Brandon Morrow (1-2) pitched three-hit ball over eight innings for his first win of the year. He struck out eight, matching a season high.

Cabrera was 3 for 4 with two RBIs and his first home run for the Blue Jays. DeRosa went 3 for 5 with three RBIs and scored three times as Toronto improved to 8-0 when scoring five or more runs.

The Blue Jays outhit Seattle 15-3 and improved to 7-12 at home.

Joe Saunders (2-4) allowed seven runs and nine hits in five innings, losing for the third time in four starts. He dropped to 0-4 with a 12.53 ERA in four road starts.

Royals 6, White Sox 5, 10 innings

In Kansas City, Missouri, Alex Gordon hit an RBI single with two outs in the 10th and Kansas City, saved when Billy Butler sent the game into extra innings, rallied past Chicago.

Butler's two-out, two-run double in the ninth tied it for the Royals. Addison Reed blew his first save in 18 opportunities dating to Aug. 25. He was 10 for 10 this season.

Lorenzo Cain led off the 10th with his third hit and stole second with one out. With two outs, Chris Getz was intentionally walked and George Kottaras walked on five pitches, loading the bases for Gordon.

He singled on the first pitch from rookie Brian Omogrosso (0-1), who made his first appearance since being called up Wednesday.

Greg Holland (1-1) worked a perfect 10th.

Alex Rios homered and Alejandro De Aza had a two-run double for the White Sox.

Marlins 14, Phillies 2

In Philadelphia, Adeiny Hechavarria hit a grand slam and a bases-loaded triple off an ailing Roy Halladay, driving in seven runs for the Miami Marlins in a victory over the Philadelphia Phillies.

After the game, Halladay said he had a sore right shoulder. He said he will undergo tests this week in Los Angeles and be examined by Dr. Lewis Yocum. Phillies general manager Ruben Amaro Jr. said Halladay (2-4) will likely be put on the disabled list.

The two-time Cy Young winner and eight-time All-Star had his worst start since his rookie season. He gave up nine runs on four hits, four walks and two hit batters in 2 1-3 innings. Halladay, who turns 36 this month, has an 8.65 ERA.

Kevin Slowey (1-2) gave up two hits in seven shutout innings for his first win since September 2010. He had been winless in 22 major league appearances, including 15 starts.

Justin Ruggiano homered twice for the Marlins.

Braves 9, Mets 4

In Atlanta, Freddie Freeman homered and drove in three runs, and Tim Hudson pitched into the eighth inning as the Atlanta Braves beat the Mets.

Freeman got three hits, including a two-run double off Jonathon Niese (2-3) in a five-run third.

David Wright hit a two-run homer off Hudson (4-1), who gave up three runs on five hits and a walk in 7 1-3 innings.

Cardinals 10, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, Jaime Garcia pitched eight innings and Allen Craig drove in four runs to lead the St. Louis Cardinals to the franchise's first four-game sweep of Milwaukee.

Matt Holliday also homered for the Cardinals, who have won six straight.

Garcia (4-1) gave up one run on eight hits in his third straight win.

Marco Estrada (2-2) lasted 3 1-3 innings for the Brewers, who have lost five in a row.

Reds 7, Cubs 4

In Chicago, Joey Votto had three hits, Todd Frazier hit a two-run single and the Cincinnati Reds completed a three-game sweep of the Chicago Cubs.

Mat Latos (3-0) extended his scoreless streak to 21 innings, tying a career high, but didn't pitch past the fifth inning for the first time in seven starts this season. He struck out six and walked three.

J.J. Hoover earned his second save.

Edwin Jackson (0-5) struggled again for the Cubs, allowing four runs and eight hits in five innings.

Nationals 6, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Tyler Moore hit a three-run homer and Danny Espinosa homered and drove in three runs, leading Gio Gonzalez and the Washington Nationals over Pittsburgh.

Nationals star Bryce Harper was ejected in the first inning. He tried to hold up on a 2-2 pitch from Wandy Rodriguez (2-2) and home plate umpire Bob Davidson pointed to third base ump John Hirschbeck for help. Hirschbeck ruled that Harper had swung.

Harper stood outside the batter's box, stared at Hirschbeck for a few moments and dropped his bat. Hirschbeck then tossed last season's NL Rookie of the Year.

Gonzalez (3-2) got the win. Starling Marte hit a leadoff homer in the first, his fourth home run in five games for Pittsburgh.

Padres 5, Diamondbacks 1

In San Diego, rookie Jedd Gyorko hit a two-run homer with two outs in the sixth and Will Venable followed with a solo shot to help carry Edinson Volquez and the San Diego Padres beat Arizona.

Volquez (3-3) won his third straight start and the Padres, who took two of three from the Diamondbacks, won for the eighth time in 11 games. The Diamondbacks have lost five of six.

Ian Kennedy (1-3) has not won since opening day.

Rays 8, Rockies 3

In Denver, Alex Cobb pitched effectively into the seventh inning, withstanding three solo homers by Colorado and helping the Tampa Bay Rays beat the Rockies.

Jose Lobaton, Ryan Roberts and Kelly Johnson each drove in two runs for the Rays. Tampa Bay took two of three and won a series at Coors Field for the first time in four visits.

Cobb (4-2) went 6 2-3 innings and allowed eight hits. Nolan Arenado hit a two-out homer in the seventh that pulled the Rockies within 6-3, a day after the rookie had a grand slam.

Tampa Bay took a 3-0 lead in the first off Jhoulys Chacin (3-1), activated from the 15-day disabled list prior to the game. He'd been out because of a lower back strain.

Giants 4, Dodgers 3

In San Francisco, Hunter Pence doubled twice and drove in four runs, Matt Cain pitched into the eighth inning for his first victory of the season as the Giants beat the Dodgers to complete a series sweep.

Leadoff hitter Andres Torres had three hits for San Francisco while Marco Scutaro had two hits and scored twice. The Giants extended their season-high winning streak to six games and defeated Dodgers rookie Hyun-Jin Ryu (3-2) for the second time this year.

Cain (1-2), who pitched six shutout innings against Los Angeles on opening day, gave up one run and five hits in 7 1-3 innings and allowed only one runner past second base while ending the longest winless drought of his career.

A.J. Ellis had two hits for the Dodgers.

The Giants won the first two games of the series on game-ending home runs but didn't need any late dramatics this time, though the Dodgers made it close with three runs in the eighth.

AP

Golfer Derek Ernst kisses the trophy after winning the Wells Fargo Championship golf tournament at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, N.C., Sunday, May 5, 2013.

Rookie Derek Ernst wins Wells Fargo in a playoff

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—One phone call changed his plans. One shot changed a whole lot more for Derek Ernst.

Six days after Ernst received a call that he was in the Wells Fargo Championship as the fourth alternate, the 22-year-old rookie found himself one shot out of the lead and 192 yards away from the flag on the 18th hole, the toughest at Quail Hollow in the cold, wind and rain of a grueling final round.

Ernst choked up on a 6-iron and hit a draw that landed 4 feet from the hole for one of only four birdies on the closing hole Sunday.

"I was trying to hit it as close as I possibly could," he said.

The birdie gave him a 2-under 70 and tied him with David Lynn of England, who also had a 70. And it turned out to be no fluke. Returning to the 18th in the playoff, as the rain started coming out harder, Ernst hit a 3-iron to about 15 feet left of the flag that set up his stunning victory.

Phil Mickelson didn't get a chance to join them. He had a one-shot lead with three holes to play until making back-to-back bogeys, missing putts of 6 feet and 10 feet. His 20-foot birdie putt on the 18th narrowly missed, and Mickelson closed with a 73.

"I felt like I was in control, and I let it slip away there the last few holes, so it was disappointing," Mickelson said.

So ended a strange week at Quail Hollow. The greens were shockingly bad due to weather and agronomical issues, which led to several players dropping out. The sun never really came out all week, and the wind chill Sunday morning made it hard to believe it was the first weekend in May. It felt like February at Pebble Beach.

Turns out there was one final surprise.

Ernst was playing only his ninth PGA Tour event. He was No. 1,207 in the world ranking. He was in a car headed to Athens, Ga., to play a Web.com Tour event when he got the phone call that there was a tee time for him at Quail Hollow.

"This feeling is unbelievable right now," said Ernst, who wasn't sure where he was going at the start of the week and can't believe where he's going now.

For starters, the victory at Quail Hollow gets him into The Players Championship next week. He qualifies for two World Golf Championships, the PGA Championship, the Tournament of Champions next year at Kapalua and the Masters next April.

Before coming to Charlotte, the rookie swapped out rental cars in Georgia so he wouldn't have to pay the $1,000 fee for dropping the car in another location. Along with a two-year exemption on tour, the win earned him just over $1.2 million.

Lynn played the final three holes, known as the "Green Mile," in a combined 4-under par for the week without a single bogey. He chipped in from 70 feet for birdie on the 16th, to go along with a 55-foot chip-in on the 17th on Saturday and a 40-foot chip-in for birdie on the 18th on Friday.

But he picked a bad time for his lone mistake on that stretch.

His tee shot in the playoff was headed for the creek on the left side, though it stayed up in shaggy grass on the bank, the ball well above his feet. Lynn was thinking about laying up until he saw Ernst fire his 3-iron into birdie range. He tried to match him with a hybrid, but the ball didn't turn over enough and caught the bunker. He blasted out of the wet sand and over the green and chipped to 5 feet. He had that left for bogey, and never had to putt.

"I've not been particularly driving it well, so took that tee shot down in the playoff and obviously found a bit of a crooked spot and then didn't play a great bunker shot either," Lynn said.

Early in the final round, the leaderboard featured Mickelson and Nick Watney at the top, with McIlroy and Lee Westwood right behind.

When it was over, the winner was Ernst, who grew up in the central valley of California and has cloudy vision out of his right eye from a freak accident as a kid, when a piece of plastic pipe sliced into his eyeball and required 10 stitches.

"I've never heard of him," Lynn said. "He's a nice player. He said he was 180th on the FedEx Cup list when we were chatting on the way around. He played super. I mean, he could have won it quite easily in regular play. He played the finish really solid, and then he hit two really solid shots in the playoff. So every credit to him. Well done."

Robert Karlsson, the Swede who now lives in Charlotte, needed a birdie on the last hole to get into the playoff but made bogey for a 72. That left him in a tie for fourth with Westwood, who was tied for the lead until back-to-back bogeys early on the back nine.

McIlroy was one shot behind when he made a double bogey on the 12th hole. He played that hole in 4-over for the week. He had a 73 and tied for 10th.

None of the contenders was more disappointed than Mickelson. He badly wanted to add his name to the list of winners at Quail Hollow, which in its first 10 years already included six major champions. But for the second straight day, the final stretch of holes did him in.

Mickelson took a one-shot lead with a chip that settled inches away for a tap-in birdie on the 14th, and he was poised to widen his lead on the par-5 15th. His second shot came up just short and into the bunker, but Mickelson could only blast that out to 12 feet and he left the birdie putt short. That proved costly.

He missed a 6-foot par putt on the 16th—at the point, Ernst and Lynn had finished at 8-under 280—and three-putted from 65 feet away off the green on the 17th for bogey.

"I'm pretty bummed out," Mickelson said. "I thought that this was one I had in control. If I could have gotten that bunker shot up-and-down on 15, I would have had a two-shot lead heading into those last three holes, which I know are difficult holes, so it would have been nice to have that.

"There is just no excuse," he said. "It wasn't easy, but it wasn't anything out of the ordinary or difficult. I should have made par."

Even though hardly anyone was paying attention to Ernst—not with so many big names in the hunt over the last two hours—he might have played the best golf.

Ernst hit a beautiful wedge from about 100 yards into 4 feet to escape with par on the 12th. He missed birdie putts from 5 feet on the 14th after nearly driving the green, and he missed another birdie putt from 6 feet on the 16th. But he made the birdie that mattered, on the 18th in regulation, to set up his big win.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	20	11	.645	—
New York	18	12	.600	1 1/2
Baltimore	19	13	.594	1 1/2
Tampa Bay	14	16	.467	5 1/2
Toronto	11	21	.344	9 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	19	11	.633	—
Kansas City	17	10	.630	1/2
Cleveland	14	14	.500	4
Minnesota	13	14	.481	4 1/2
Chicago	12	17	.414	6 1/2

West Division

Texas	20	11	.645	_
Oakland	18	14	.563	2 1/2
Seattle	15	18	.455	6
Los Angeles	11	20	.355	9
Houston	8	24	.250	12 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	18	12	.600	_
Washington	17	15	.531	2
Philadelphia	14	18	.438	5
New York	12	16	.429	5
Miami	10	22	.313	9

Central Division

St. Louis	20	11	.645	_
Cincinnati	18	14	.563	2 1/2
Pittsburgh	17	14	.548	3
Milwaukee	14	16	.467	5 1/2
Chicago	11	20	.355	9

West Division

San Francisco	19	12	.613	_
Colorado	18	13	.581	1
Arizona	16	15	.516	3
Los Angeles	13	17	.433	5 1/2
San Diego	13	18	.419	6

WELLS FARGO CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP)—Scores Sunday from the Wells Fargo Championship, a US PGA Tour event at the 7,492-yard, par-72 Quail Hollow Club course:

FINAL ROUND

x-Derek Ernst (500), $1,206,000	67-71-72-70—280
David Lynn (300), $723,600	71-68-71-70—280
Phil Mickelson (190), $455,600	68-67-73-73—281
Robert Karlsson (123), $294,800	69-72-69-72—282
Lee Westwood (123), $294,800	70-68-72-72—282
Ryan Moore (89), $216,913	67-75-68-73—283
Kyle Stanley (89), $216,913	74-68-73-68—283
Kevin Streelman (89), $216,913	68-72-71-72—283
Bo Van Pelt (89), $216,913	74-70-68-71—283
Ross Fisher (64), $148,517	70-71-73-70—284
Charles Howell III (64), $148,517	72-72-69-71—284
Rory McIlroy (64), $148,517	67-71-73-73—284
Vaughn Taylor (64), $148,517	70-72-71-71—284
Brian Harman (64), $148,517	70-70-71-73—284
Nick Watney (64), $148,517	67-70-71-76—284
Sergio Garcia (53), $97,150	72-68-72-73—285
D.H. Lee (53), $97,150	72-71-69-73—285
Luke List (53), $97,150	71-75-71-68—285
George McNeill (53), $97,150	69-68-72-76—285
Henrik Norlander (53), $97,150	74-70-69-72—285
D.A. Points (53), $97,150	71-69-71-74—285
Scott Gardiner (47), $64,320	70-67-76-73—286
John Merrick (47), $64,320	74-71-68-73—286
John Rollins (47), $64,320	69-74-72-71—286
John Senden (47), $64,320	70-73-67-76—286
Jimmy Walker (47), $64,320	71-72-73-70—286
Robert Allenby (42), $47,570	76-70-71-70—287
Brian Davis (42), $47,570	72-74-69-72—287
Robert Garrigus (42), $47,570	67-72-75-73—287
Lucas Glover (42), $47,570	68-71-73-75—287
Shawn Stefani (42), $47,570	69-73-72-73—287
Jordan Spieth, $37,073	69-71-75-73—288
Josh Teater (37), $37,073	72-73-71-72—288
Pat Perez (37), $37,073	76-69-72-71—288
Ted Potter, Jr. (37), $37,073	71-70-75-72—288
Patrick Reed (37), $37,073	70-74-73-71—288
Webb Simpson (37), $37,073	70-74-71-73—288
Scott Brown (31), $28,810	74-71-75-69—289
Bud Cauley (31), $28,810	70-73-73-73—289
James Driscoll (31), $28,810	70-72-73-74—289
Martin Flores (31), $28,810	73-71-72-73—289
Geoff Ogilvy (31), $28,810	74-72-71-72—289
Brendon de Jonge (25), $20,904	74-71-72-73—290
David Hearn (25), $20,904	69-72-75-74—290
Russell Henley (25), $20,904	69-71-73-77—290
Richard H. Lee (25), $20,904	73-70-72-75—290
Rod Pampling (25), $20,904	69-69-74-78—290
Daniel Summerhays (25), $20,904	67-73-75-75—290
Lee Williams (25), $20,904	73-71-71-75—290
Stuart Appleby (18), $15,829	71-71-75-74—291
Tommy Gainey (18), $15,829	74-72-73-72—291
James Hahn (18), $15,829	72-74-72-73—291
Ryo Ishikawa (18), $15,829	73-73-71-74—291
Chris Kirk (18), $15,829	72-71-72-76—291
Jason Kokrak (18), $15,829	68-70-73-80—291
Nate Smith, $15,829	67-74-77-73—291
Peter Tomasulo (18), $15,829	71-73-72-75—291
Trevor Immelman (12), $14,874	70-72-78-72—292
Dicky Pride (12), $14,874	71-71-75-75—292
Boo Weekley (12), $14,874	68-75-77-72—292
Steven Bowditch (9), $14,405	69-76-73-75—293
Will Claxton (9), $14,405	73-73-73-74—293
Steve Marino (9), $14,405	71-72-73-77—293
Gary Woodland (9), $14,405	70-73-74-76—293
Roberto Castro (5), $13,936	71-73-74-76—294
Hunter Haas (5), $13,936	75-71-73-75—294
Zach Johnson (5), $13,936	68-72-77-77—294
Brad Fritsch (2), $13,534	71-72-77-75—295
Matteo Manassero, $13,534	71-75-73-76—295
Casey Wittenberg (2), $13,534	73-71-74-77—295
Angel Cabrera (1), $13,266	73-69-75-80—297
Luke Guthrie (1), $13,132	74-69-75-84—302

x-won on first playoff hole

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Falcons regain top spot in Major

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Talaabwogh Falcons reclaimed the lead in the Major Division of the 2013 Saipan Little League Baseball after nipping the Red Sox, 5-4, last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Falcons held the Red Sox run-less in the first five innings and halted the latter's rally at the bottom of the sixth inning to improve to an 11-1 record and grab the top spot from the NSA Braves (11-2).

The division leader scored three runs in the second inning and added two more in the fifth, but was threatened in the last inning when the Red Sox (6-6) nailed four runs to cut the deficit to one. Joseph Manglona hit a two-run double at right field, driving home Kiana Aldan and Tindin Leon Guerrero, while the two other runs came off the Falcons' errors.

The Falcons then stopped the Red Sox's run with pitcher Max Pangelinan striking out Joven Reyes for the third out.

Saipan Little League officials and players pose with the baseball equipment Little League Williamsport donated to the CNMI.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rockies 20, Rangers 0

The Pinnacle Rockies (10-4) routed the Kagman Ford Rangers (0-13) after only two innings.

The Rockies secured the easy win via the 10-run mercy rule after drilling 12 runs at the top of the second inning.

Donavin Ada went at bat only once, but his homer netted three RBIs and he also scored, there runs to lead the Rockies early victory. Dai Podziewski also had three runs and was 2-for-3 at the plate with two RBIs, starting the game with a solo homer at the top of the first.

Anthony Tenorio had a no-hitter in two innings pitched and struck out four. The hapless Rangers batted only six times.

In other results, McDonald's (8-4) also cruised past its foe, downing the Kagman Little Legals (7-7) in four innings in last Saturday's curtain raiser.

CNMI receives donation from Williamsport

Meanwhile, the Fielders' Pat Tenorio turned over to SLLB officials the equipment Little League headquarters in Williamsport donated to the CNMI.

Tenorio, who helped secure the donation from various member-countries of the Little League in 2011, said they received brand new gloves, balls, bats, helmets, and catcher's gear which are in good condition.

SLLB's Annie Flores and Piding Tenorio received the donation and were joined in the ceremony by Fielders sluggers David Ada and Kobe Kaipat.

"We would like to thank the Williamsport headquarters and all who donated these equipment. These will be distributed to the Saipan teams and also to players on Rota and Tinian," Flores said.

Tenorio also thanked CTSI Saipan and its partner in the mainland for helping ship the donation here.

Dollar Days hands Docomo first loss

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Dollar Days quickly ended Docomo Pacific's win streak, notching a 96-86 win during the second game in the 4th Shirley's Coffee Shop Basketball League last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Docomo made repeated comeback bids to stretch its winning run to three, but Dollar Days weathered the storm to come out unscathed in two games. Dollar Days survived a 59-standoff at the 4:05 mark of the third canto with a 11-5 windup to retain the driver's seat, 70-64, and went to protect the lead in the fourth canto.

The eventful final half of the third saw the ejection of Docomo's Tim Wesley and Dollar Days' Jawn Joyner, who got into each other's nerves, as they jockeyed for position in the paint. According to the referee, Wesley threw the first punch and Joyner retaliated, causing their disqualification from the game. The two players eventually cooled off and watched the remainder of the match on their respective benches.

Dollar Days had already regained control of the match, 66-60, when the two players were ejected and 4 straight points from Wowie Abuel kept his team on top at the end of the third, as Docomo was held to two field goals courtesy off Bruce Berline and one free throw from Rolly Paraiso.

Docomo then clearly felt Wesley's absence in the paint in the fourth quarter, as it had only Berline to contend with Dollar Days big men Kae Bernardo and Bart Demapan. To make things worse for Docomo, Elgene Mangali and Marlon Sison were not as consistent in their 3-point shooting as in their past two games. Docomo also opted to rush things and committed more errors that made baskets.

Dollar Days, on the other hand, had cruise control with Abuel quarterbacking for the crew and Ivan Devero leading the offense and getting support from Bernardo and Demapan. Devero went on to top-score for Dollar Days with his 35 points, while the two frontliners combined for 22, Abuel added 11.

Mangali paced Docomo with his 23 points, but missed a lot of long shots in the fourth canto.

DFS 98, Kalayaan 88

In the first game, DFS finally broke into the win column after dropping its first two games.

A 30-19 scoring tear in the third quarter helped DFS down Kalayaan. The defending champions were behind at the break, 42-45, when it rallied in the third to grab the lead, 72-64. Elmer Esdrelon led the uprising, canning five triples and scoring 16 points, while Junar Guiab contributed 10 markers.

Esdrelon was then held to two field goals in the fourth canto, but Keoni Chariton filled the void, firing 8 of his 14 markers in the payoff period to secure the 10-point win. Esdrelon and Chariton led three other DFS players in twin digits in scoring to offset the 33 points of Lerio Pagarao.

Pagarao only drew help from Sonny Lerio, who chipped in 17 markers, as the 13 markers of Roger Herrera were scattered and did not make a big impact on Kalayaan's offense. Kalayaan absorbed its second straight loss after winning its debut against Shirley's.

First Game

DFS 98 – Esdrelon 23, Barcinas 20, Chariton 14, Guiab 12, Lizama 12, Libuw 6, Dikito 4, Chavez 2.

Kalayaan, Inc. 88 – Pagarao 33, Lerio 17, Herrera 13, Camacho 8, R. Hernandez 8, Caro 4, Ritual 4.

Scoring by quarters: 24-21, 42-45, 72-64, 98-88.

Second Game

Dollar Days 96 – I. Devero 35, Demapan 13, Abuel 11, Bernardo 9, Talania 9, Joyner 7, C. Devero 6, Laquian 2.

Docomo Pacific 86 – Mangali 23, Sison 20, Paraiso 16, Berline 15, Sanciangco 8.

Scoring by quarters: 24-18, 53-41, 70-64, 96-86.

AKIMARU

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(55:36), Max Garcia (55:37), Hank Arurang (55:40), Jerald Domingo (55:46), Gary De Guzman (57:09), Romene Chong (57:32), Andrew Nissen (57:46), Rintaro Takahashi (58:13), Michael Villagomez (58:28), Jacoby Winkfield (58:31), Steve Beyer (58:33), Richard Villagomez (58:40), Jerryson Mani (58:58), Tamiko Winkfield (1:00:18), Danny Calvo (1:00:51), Joey Tudela (1:01:43), Manny Sitchon (1:01:44), Jinju Thomson (1:01:49), Ross Naughton (1:01:52), Jennifer Kogure (1:02:10), Colin Thomson (1:02:13), Charlie Sendin (1:03:02), Pipit Ball (1:03:15), Mike Villagomez (1:03:26), Lewie Tenorio (1:03:28), Kaitlin Mattos (1:03:35), John Aldan (1:03:38), Josiah Kyonka (1:03:44), Florence Antonio (1:03:57), Jinnosuke Suzuki (1:04:06), Joshua Berger (1:04:13),RickyCastro(1:04:22), Kimiko McKagan (1:04:27), Mamiko Berger (1:04:40), Steve Johnson (1:06:08) Jomar Danas (1:06:15), Becky Skeel (1:06:58), Mark Diestro (1:07:20), Ty Izuka (1:08:58), Dan Berman (1:10:52), Maria Ornes (1:12:07), Max Simian (1:14:37), Michail Villagomez (1:16:05), R.J. Pierce (1:16:46), Carol Lynn Pierce (1:16:56), Brian Flaherty (1:19:24), Tiffany Lin (1:22:06), Noel Altamirano (1:25:58), and Xin Mei Tang (1:42:25).

"The family orientation of SSC was very evident on Saturday with Richard W. Pierce kayaking while wife Carol Lynn Pierce swam with their grandson R.J. Colin Thompson stayed just behind first-time Escapee and 10-year-old daughter Jinju. Coach Mike Villagomez had his daughter and two oldest sons as well as his brother Rich out on the course. Sister and brother Tami and Jacoby Winkfield swam, while their father Bobby was on shore cheering them on. Husband and wife Josh and Mamiko Berger swam side by side and Kimiko McKagan swam while her husband Steve led the kayakers. Derek Chambers brought up the rear in a kayak while his wife Maria Ornes swam just ahead. Cousins Soledad Quan and Shigeki Tenorio swam while their aunt Lynn Tenorio watched over them from a boat. Ann Jordan was kayaking while her son, Robert and grandson Landon operated a chase boat so they could watch over Landon's mother, Kristy Springer," Kindel said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Meanwhile, SSC would like to thank DFS, Bridge Capital, PIC, Rosal/Zest, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, McDonald's, Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia, Bank of Guam, IT&E, Mariana Resort & Spa, volunteers, and parents who donated snacks for the 10th anniversary of Escape.

"The great turnout for the Escape from Managaha proves that many support SSC's values of fitness, family, and fun in swimming. Many escaped this time and all had fun. We hope many more will escape with us next year," SSC president Robert Torres said.

ADOBO

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Guerrero scored 17 points, making 14 of them in the first half to lift Adobo to a 31-20 advantage.

Adobo never looked back from thereon, as its much younger and faster crew went on to outgun and outrun the veteran players of Maplas in the second half. Adobo had six players combining for 44 points to support Deleon Guerrero. Maplas leaned on the 20 markers of Edmark Mendoza. Noel David added a quiet 11 points and the rest of his teammates totaled only 24 markers.

Camor 84, Yuchiro 60

In the first game, Camor (1-1) coasted past Yuichiro (1-3).

Camor opened a 25-13 lead after the first period to set up the rout in the Bracket B pairing. Joseph Galulu and Jack Aranda teamed up in Camor's strong start, nailing 9 and 7 points, respectively, in the first quarter. Aranda went on to finish with a game-high 26 markers, while Galulu tallied 14.

Camor held Yuichiro to no more than 15 points in each of the next two quarters to pull away with a 59-40 advantage, going into the final canto. Camor ended the quarter with back-to-back triples, one each from Mike Yap and Aranda, who then kicked off the fourth with two more treys to complete their demolition of Yuichiro.

First Game

Camor 84 – Aranda 26, Galulu 14, Yap 10, Espinosa 8, Factor 8, Ibanez 6, Morales 6, Kwon 2, Cayading 2.

Yuichiro 60 – Babauta 23, T. Montes 11, Sacramento 8, Metran 7, A. Montes 6, Enriques 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-13, 37-25, 59-40, 84-60.

Second Game

Adobo 69 – Deleon Guerrero 17, Dela Cruz 10, Vertudez 9, Palacios 8, Hemley 8, Yap 5, Saturno 4, Tadifa 2, Apelo 2.

Maplas 57 – Mendoza 20, David 11, Aniciete 8, Odicta 8, Matias 5, Surla 3.

Scoring by quarters: 15-10, 31-20, 48-38, 69-57.

TOP-RANKED

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In the U12 division, Malika Miyawaki was the second seeded player to clinch a championship after defeating fellow ranked netter Tania Tan in the finals last Sunday, 6-2, 6-1. Miyawaki marched into the title game after surviving Mimi Sakano in three sets, 6-3, 2-6, 6-0, last Saturday. The second-ranked Tan had an easier semis tiff, sweeping Grace Choi last Saturday, 6-1, 6-3. Choi went on to settle for third place after bowing to Sakano last Sunday, 0-8, while Catherine Atalig and Conatsu Kaga won their separate consolation matches.

In the U10 age group, top-ranked Jireh Warren also prevailed in the seven-player draw, clinching the championship with a 6-1 victory over Maria Gregoire last Sunday. Warren and Gregoire arranged their finals showdown after ousting Maaya Sato, 6-0, and Ellie Epley, 6-4, in their separate semis games in Week 1 of the tournament. Epley rounded out the Top 3 after edging Sato, 6-2, while Hanah Ojima topped the consolation draw after thwarting Erika Tuttle, 6-3.

Meanwhile, there was an upset in the U15 division with the unranked Julia Ishikawa stunning No. 1 seed Isabel Heras in the finals last Sunday. Ishikawa set up the stunner with a 6-3 win in the opening set and although she missed a sweep, losing the second, 3-6, the 12-year-old netter still pulled off the win, prevailing in the third set, 6-3.

Ishikawa made it to the finals after a 6-1, 6-0 semis win over Jazmin Rayphand, who knocked off the second-ranked Emily Jones, 6-2, 7-5. Heras drew a bye in the first round and marched into the finals after thumping Liza Atalig, 6-0, 6-0. Atalig completed the Final Four after nipping Zena Demapan, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2.

Meanwhile, results in the boys singles and doubles competitions will be reported later this week.

Darvish, Beltre and Rangers finish sweep of Boston

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Pacers beat Knicks 102-95 in Game 1

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Swimmers pose for a group photo before leaving for Managaha for last Saturday's 10th Escape from Managaha.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Akimaru, Chentsova lead 'Escapees'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Sixty-nine swimmers completed last Saturday's 10th Annual Escape from Managaha.

Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru and Victoria Chentsova led the finishers in the 2.4-kilometer crossing from the famous island to Micro Beach, completing the swim in 38:00 and in the process surpassing their time in the same event last year. Chentsova topped the 2012 edition of the event, clocking in at 38:09.10 against the 38:09.31 of Akimaru. For the past three years, the two SSC bets have been taking the Top 2 spots in the race, as in 2011 Akimaru clocked in at 40:04.21 to beat the 40:05.35 of Chentsova.

"Victoria and Kento this time finished together in 38 minutes, which was about the same time as last year despite worse conditions this year. Last year was glassy, but this year there was chop and some current," said Suzy Kindel, a fellow "Escapee," finishing the event in 52:14, and one of the organizers of the weekend event.

The two SSC swimmers made it to Micro Beach unassisted, while the rest of the finishers used paddles, wetsuits, snorkels, buoys, and fins to complete the crossing.

Joining the Top 2 finishers were Vener Urena (39:22), Tyce Mister (43:31), Ketson "Jack: Kabiriel (44:48), Butch Sublemente (45:00), Soledad Quan (45:01), Shigeki Tenorio (45:21), Dhurba Karki (46:39), Christian Villacrusis (48:32), Lennosuke Suzuki (48:43), Taiga Sato (48:47), Keanna Villagomez (50:09), Lester Lapuz (50:47), Tami Nishikido (50:53), Fernando Java (51:19), David Boyer (51:21), Kristy Springer (52:30), Megan Nevitt (55:35), Paul Plunkett

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Top-ranked jr. players deliver

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Seeded players in the girls singles division of the 2013 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships triumphed over the weekend at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

In the U18 division finals, top-ranked Thea Minor slipped past Mikayla Lopez in three sets last Sunday to keep her reign in the age group. Minor dropped the opening set, 4-6, but foiled Lopez's bid for an upset, sweeping the last two sets, 6-3, 6-4. Negahr Rastguiy joined Minor and Lopez in the Top 3 after beating Carol Lee in the consolation game, 6-2, 6-4.

Rastguiy was forced to play in the battle for third place after Minor eliminated her in the semifinals in Week 1 of the competition, 6-2, 7-5. Lopez and Lee dueled in the other semis pairing with the former eking out a three-set win, 2-6, 6-3, 6-3, also in the opening week of the annual event.

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Malika Miyawaki stretches for a return during her and Julia Ishikawa's doubles match against Tania Tan and Carol Lee in the 2013 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Adobo's Lester Vertudez drives and draws a foul on Maplas La Mani's Noel David during the first quarter of their game in the DLX caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Adobo keeps unbeaten record

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Adobo extended its winning run to four after dominating Maplas La Mani, 69-57, in the second game in the 2013 DLX Invitational Basketball League last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Adobo held Maplas to 10 points each in the first and second quarters en route to the 12-point win against its depleted foe, which was without key players Rommel Usi and Dennis Morales.

Ichitaro Faisao also did not suit up for Adobo, but Shane Deleon Guerrero was there to provide the needed offense for the Bracket A leader. Deleon

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